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R E P O R T S
ON THE
PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL
POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1870.

PART I.—WEST INDIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1872.



L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1872.

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PART I.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 1.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.,
to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 103.)

MY LORD,

King's House, August 4, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this
Colony for the year 1870, together with my Report on it.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure in
No. 1.

REPORT ON THE JAMAICA BLUE BOOK FOR 1870.

Legislation.

Thirty-five laws were passed during this year. Of these the following are the most important :—

Law 1 of 1870 provides for two assistants to the Attorney-General, one for each of the two circuits, who, in subordination to the Attorney-General, perform in effect the duties of public prosecutor, first in sanctioning the presentment of public indictments, and then in personally conducting the prosecution, at the circuit courts, of the persons so indicted. Felonies and grave misdemeanours are always the subjects of public prosecution. Thus, practically, a public prosecutor has been constituted ; though the right of private indictment remains.

Law 2 of 1870 reduces the number of puisne judges of the Supreme Court from three to two ; and reduces the number of places for holding circuit courts from thirteen to six. This law was passed upon the resignation of the office of chief justice by Sir Bryan Edwards, who retired under the regular system of superannuation pensions lately introduced into this Colony, and was succeeded by Sir John Lucie Smith, C.M.G. ; and the resignation of the office of puisne judge by Mr. Kemble, who retired on a special pension equal to half salary, and whose office was thereupon abolished.

By this reduction a gross saving of 600*l.* a year was effected ; out of which 200*l.* a year were allotted as an increase to the salary of the Chief Justice, which thus became 2,000*l.* a year ; and 375*l.* were

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allotted as travelling expenses for the judges going circuit, who before were required to make their circuits at their own charge. Thus the net saving at present is only 25*l.* a year; but this will be increased by 600*l.* a year when Mr. Kemble's pension lapses. This arrangement has placed all the judges of the Supreme Court on a somewhat more proper footing than they were on before.

Law 3 of 1870 abolishes the offices of the clerks of the peace and clerks to the magistrates, and makes better provision for the discharge of all executive magisterial duties than was made under the former system. The old Statute, 23 Vic., cap. 18, for providing and regulating the salaries and fees of the clerks of the peace and clerks of the magistrates, expired on the 31st December, 1866, and was only continued in force by temporary laws until all the arrangements for the remodelling of the offices in question could be carried into effect. By this law pensions were granted to the clerks of the peace and magistrates' clerks, in compensation for the abolition of office; and the office of clerk of petty sessions has been created instead. Those clerks of the peace who chose to accept the new office (which involves the abandonment of private practice, the devotion of the holders' whole time to the public duties, and considerable locomotion in parochial circuits) were appointed thereto. These clerks of petty sessions are paid wholly by salary. The fees formerly paid to clerks of the peace are by this law converted into stamp duties, the proceeds of which form a part of the ordinary revenues of the Colony. The fixed allowances of the clerks of petty sessions, exclusive of travelling allowances, are covered or nearly covered by the stamp duties.

The actual net saving already made on the whole scheme, after deducting from the gross saving a sum of 1,534*l.* for life pensions granted to the former clerks of the peace and magistrates' clerks, and the cost of the new offices of two assistants to the Attorney-General (who have become public prosecutors), and of five circuit court clerks, which together may be taken at 1,410*l.* a year, was calculated at about 2,256*l.* a year. But from this must be deducted the travelling allowances of the petty sessions clerks, at present amounting in all to about 1,200*l.* a year.

The clerks of petty sessions have the powers of a justice of the peace; but being the officers of the justices they do not sit judicially at the trial of cases in petty sessions, and do not exercise any judicial power. They perform all the other functions of a justice of the peace, and they make periodical visits to certain out-stations in their parishes for the purpose of issuing process. In short, they do in their own names, avowedly, and on their own personal responsibility, without the nominal intervention of anyone else, all that the former clerks of the peace used to do really, but without any personal responsibility, by means of documents signed under their advice by a justice of the peace. Cases are tried judicially by the justices in petty sessions, as heretofore. In this truly judicial duty the justices act really on their own judgments; being of course at liberty to consult their officer on technical points of law or practice.

Law 4 of 1870. District courts having been established all over

the Island, this law was passed to transfer to them exclusively the concurrent jurisdiction heretofore exercised by the magistrates' courts on claims for debt not exceeding ten pounds, and claims of damage for tort not exceeding forty shillings. The sittings of the magistrates in petty sessions were not very regular, nor did they constitute a very suitable tribunal in cases of tort, which, however small the damage, frequently involve points of difficulty, the correct decision of which is of local importance. The process of execution in the courts of the justices of the peace was a means of great abuse, and a source of constant complaint, by reason of the unsatisfactory conduct, generally, of their officers designated collectors of petty debts, whose legitimate emoluments of office (derived from fees) were so small that proper men could not be expected to accept the office.

Law 7 of 1870 abolishes the office of Financial Secretary, and transfers the duties of that office to the Colonial Secretary. The finances of the Colony having been extricated from the state of embarrassment in which they were involved when the new Government was constituted, and the reorganization of the revenue departments having been completed, the time had arrived when a second secretary was no longer indispensable, as the work could be done by one secretary, with the help of an assistant secretary. This law was accordingly passed, causing an immediate saving of 200*l.* a year, and an ultimate saving of 700*l.* a year.

Law 9 of 1870 extinguishes the Main Road Fund. This fund was opened in the books of the Treasury in the year 1858, under the Island Act, 21 Vic. cap. 34. When that Act was passed, it was intended, apparently, to create a real fund for the improvement and repair of the main roads and bridges under the management of a body styled the "Main Road Commissioners." All revenue derived from the land tax under the 8 Vic. cap. 16, and from the redemption thereof under the provisions of the 21 Vic. cap. 34; from all tolls upon the roads; from one-fifth part of the tax on horses and wheels; and from all special grants made for the maintenance and improvement of main roads, was credited to this fund, and was transferred to the Main Road Commissioners, to be by them appropriated for the maintenance and improvement of the main roads, and for securing a fund for the repayment of any moneys to be borrowed for that purpose, and the payment of the interest thereon. But in practice the whole scheme immediately broke down. The power to redeem land tax was taken away by the 24 Vic. cap. 36. The tolls were abolished on the 1st October, 1863. The original revenue of the fund, which was never adequate, came thus to be reduced greatly below the necessary amount. In December, 1861, certain additional import duties were imposed, specially in aid of the Main Road Fund. These import duties yielded about 10,000*l.* a year. But they failed to make the fund solvent. Thus for many years past the Main Road Fund, notwithstanding loans raised in its name to the amount of 100,350*l.* (great part of which was expended in current repairs), had become quite inadequate to meet the disbursements chargeable against it. Consequently when it came to an end, it already owed 32,695*l.* to the general chest, besides the 100,350*l.* of loan moneys above

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mentioned, for which the Island revenues were responsible. Thus the fund was a nominal affair, representing only so much public debt. It had become necessary either that some adequate revenue should be provided to make the fund into a reality, or that it should be abolished. The latter course being the simpler was adopted.

The security of the moneys raised under the several Loan Acts passed from time to time to sustain this fund is not affected by this law, as the public revenue of the Colony is and always was pledged for payment both of the interest and principal of these loans. The only effect of this abolition has been to strike off a nominal asset of the Colony, and a corresponding nominal debt, leaving the real debt as it was.

Law 14 of 1870 abolished the tax on breeding stock and boats. The first-named tax was originally imposed in the year 1857, but was increased, a tax on boats being simultaneously imposed in the year 1861. The practical effects of the abolition of these taxes are reported on under the head of Finance.

Law 15 of 1870 abolishes the tonnage dues on vessels trading to this Island. The lighthouse dues of 5*d.* a ton are still in force, and continue to be levied for the maintenance of two important light-houses. The tonnage dues ceased to be levied on the 31st of March of the year now under report. The practical effect of this law also is noted under the head of Finance.

Law 20 of 1870 establishes a Government Savings Bank on the principle of the Imperial Post Office Savings Bank. This bank is placed under the management of the treasurer, and a branch bank has been opened at each parochial treasury, and at a few out-stations in some of the larger parishes.

Moneys are received into and paid out of these branch offices, under regulations prescribed by the Governor in Privy Council. No private depositor can deposit more than 200*l.* in any one year, nor more than 400*l.* in all. But this restriction does not apply to public departments and judicial deposits; nor does it apply to certain charitable associations. Interest is allowed on deposits at the rate of four per cent. per annum. It is expected that the difference between this rate and five per cent. (which is now the current rate upon public loans) will at least defray the expenses of the new institution. The rate of interest formerly allowed to the private savings banks was six per cent. per annum. This measure, therefore, promises to effect a saving of at least one per cent. on the gross amount of savings in deposit, which amount already to between 80,000*l.* and 90,000*l.*

The practical operation of this law has been to substitute, for the seven stations whereat there were formerly private savings banks, 17 stations, at each of which there is now a branch of the Government Savings Bank. Thus a savings bank is now placed within easy reach of persons in all parts of the Island; and all depositors have the security of the Government for the due repayment of the moneys deposited. By the institution of a Government Savings Bank the possibility of losses, such as occurred lately in the disastrous case of the Trelawny Savings Bank, described in a former Report, is avoided. A

great convenience is afforded by the Government Savings Bank, by allowing a depositor at any one station to obtain payment of his deposit at any other station.

The Government Savings Bank did not come into full operation until the close of the year 1870, when interest ceased to be allowed on the balances of the private savings banks. But on the 31st December, 1870, transfers to the value of 3,676*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* had already taken place from the private banks to the Government bank; and there were at that time 469 depositors in all in the Government Savings Bank, the value of whose deposits amounted to 16,199*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Law 24 of 1870 authorizes the Governor in Privy Council to declare any ports or places in this Island to be ports of entry and clearance. Formerly the authority granted to the Governor by this law was vested solely in the Crown.

Law 28 of 1870 facilitates the discharge of the business in the circuit courts at Kingston, by empowering the Governor to appoint, whenever it may be necessary, one of the puisne judges of the Supreme Court to assist the Chief Justice in disposing of the business of the circuit court at Kingston, by holding a separate court, simultaneously sitting.

Law 30 of 1870 has been passed to regulate the immediate disestablishment and the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in this Island, on the expiry by efflux of time of the last of the Clergy Acts under which a temporary Church establishment had been created. It authorizes a constitution to be formed for the future government of the Church of England in Jamaica on the voluntary principle; and it gives power to Her Majesty, whenever the proper time arrives, to incorporate by charter the duly appointed representatives of the Church communion, after which incorporation the Governor will have the power to vest in such corporate body all Church property. This law was considered necessary, on the expiry of "the Clergy Act, 1858," to sanction the new voluntary communion, to facilitate its constitution, and to make provision for the continuance of their stipends to those clergymen upon the late establishment who shall continue in the due discharge of their ecclesiastical duties as members of the voluntary communion. The law has been framed on the Canadian and Irish precedents. A correspondence relating to the disestablishment of the Church of England in Jamaica, the result of which was the enactment of this measure, has passed with the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Law 31 of 1870. A law relating to savings banks. This was passed in order to give facilities to depositors desirous of transferring to the Government Savings Bank their accounts in any existing savings banks, and to enable the trustees of savings banks to close such banks.

By the second section of this law it is provided that, on the 1st January, 1871, all interest payable by the public on the cash balances in the Treasury at the credit of the several savings banks under private management, should cease to accrue.

Law 35 of 1870. A law for winding up the Trelawny Bank for

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savings was passed in consequence of a petition adopted at a public meeting of depositors, representing by far more than a moiety of the owners of the whole of the funds for which the bank is liable. This meeting was specially called for the purpose of considering the expediency of applying to the Legislature for such a law as this; and at the meeting a petition was adopted, incorporating the draft of a bill in no material respects differing from the law.

Adaptations of three laws in force in England were made by the Legislative Council in 1870.

Law 6 of 1870 protects seamen's clothing and property. Its provisions are taken from the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Vic., cap. 57.

Law 8 of 1870 amends the law relating to promissory oaths, by assimilating such oaths to those now taken in England.

Law 16 of 1870, commonly called the Habitual Criminals Law of 1870, consists mainly of selections from the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Vic., cap. 99, on the same subject. This law, like the English law from which it is taken, may be improved after experience of its working has been obtained. I expect beneficial results from its enactment, after it has been some little time in operation; and I am of opinion that still more beneficial results would be obtained, by carrying still further the principle of exceptional legislation for this peculiar class of criminals.

Finance.

The present Report embraces the financial year 1869-70, ending with the 30th of September. This is the fourth financial year since the establishment of the new Constitution.

In my last years' Report I was able to announce that (allowance being made for the large amount of taxes abolished) the revenue would be found to have materially improved, even beyond the large revenue of the preceding year; and I stated that it was expected that a surplus of not less than 25,000*l.* or 30,000*l.* would be shown by the accounts when closed. It will be seen that this expectation has been much more than realized. The surplus of revenue over expenditure in this year, 1869-70 (apart from the revenue and expenditure for immigration services, and after deducting from it 4,930*l.* paid to sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt; and a further sum of 950*l.* paid from revenue within the year in actual extinction of debt), as shown by the books, amounted to 39,938*l.* To this sum should properly be added an amount of 683*l.*, which had been drawn in the June and September quarters of the past year, but had not been accounted for before the closing of the transactions of the year. This sum was, however, included in my Report as part of the payments in 1868-69, and therefore should not be viewed in this Report as forming part of the expenditure of the year 1869-70. The surplus of this latter year may therefore be increased by this amount, showing a true total of 40,621*l.*

In the estimates of the now current year 1870-71, this surplus has been appropriated in the following manner:—Special services on roads, bridges, and works, 22,508*l.*, and for the census, 6,000*l.*,

leaving still available 12,113*l.*, from which will be paid debentures falling due within the year, amounting to 5,450*l.*

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No new taxation was imposed in the year under review. On the contrary, in the course of this year the Colony was relieved of taxation to an extent which, according to the yield of 1868-69, cannot be estimated at less than at the rate of 41,000*l.* a year. Of this amount of relief, not less than 21,410*l.* was operative in the year now under report. The following are the items of taxation, with the yield of each item in 1868-69, which were abandoned in the course of the year 1869-70 :—

	£
Additional import duty - - - - -	18,427
Tonnage dues (exclusive of light dues) - - -	14,136
Tax on breeding stock, &c. - - - - -	8,848
	<hr/>
	£41,411

The additional import duty was a new tax of one-tenth additional to the old import duties, imposed as a temporary measure in the year 1867-68, to meet a remainder of financial difficulty which was then still oppressing the Colony; on the expiry of the term for which the tax was imposed, all financial difficulties having been meanwhile overcome, the additional duty was not renewed. The other two taxes removed were permanent imposts originating under the old constitution.

The unpopularity of recognized fiscal principles here, makes any reduction of taxes anything but a pleasant duty. Nevertheless I have received no complaints in consequence of the expiry of the additional import duty. But this has not been the case with the tonnage duty, than which a more unsound and impolitic, and indeed a more unjust tax, is not easily conceivable. Being paid into the Treasury from the hands of the shipowner or his agent, many colonists imagine that by this method, in some magical manner, foreigners are made to pay their taxes for them, presuming, apparently, that the shipowner forgets to recover the charge by increased freightage. The tax was not a trifling impost, being equal to nearly two-thirds of the immigration export duty, a duty which, though in a manner self-imposed, is not unfelt. It was in effect a merely nominal duty on valuable imports, such as silks and satins; but a heavy impost upon bulky exports, such as logwood, and a substantial impost upon such an article as sugar. I must confess, however, that the abolition of tonnage dues is an unpopular measure. I have received, indeed, formal complaints from the owners of coasting craft, who benefit by the abolition, as all other owners of vessels do, on the ground that now that vessels from England can visit every port in the Island, if they please, untaxed, the owners of the small coasting vessels are deprived of their time-honoured monopoly of the Island port to port trade. The grievance, I am afraid, is imaginary; for a little wholesome competition of interlopers in this business would do much good. The tax on breeding stock was unjust, as being imposed exclusively on one particular class of agriculturists, which class pays also on their land just as all other classes do; and it was impolitic, as discouraging

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the breeding of horses, cattle, asses, mules, and sheep, than which a more generally useful employment of capital can hardly be imagined. But with those who did not pay the tax, its abolition cannot be said to have been popular. I remember reading an attack on the measure in one of the public prints, and if there was a defence, it escaped my eye.

I believe, however, that I may safely prophesy that, whenever it shall become necessary to raise a new tax, resort will not be had to either of these last-mentioned sources.

The healthy condition of the finances, as shown above, is to be attributed to the revival of trade noticed in my former Report, to the general advancement in prosperity of the Colony, and to the continuing improvement in the collection of the revenue.

The following are the figures in the books which give the actual results of the financial year 1869-70 :—

General revenue	-	-	-	£ 414,418
Expenditure	-	-	-	874,480
Surplus	-	-	-	<u>£89,998</u>

To which must be added the sum of 683*l.* mentioned above, giving a real surplus of 40,621*l.*

The Immigration Fund Account is not included in the above figures. Its revenue and expenditure for the year were as follows :—

Revenue	-	-	-	-	£ 26,105
Expenditure	-	-	-	-	86,016

The difference between the immigration revenue and expenditure of the year, viz. 9,911*l.*, was defrayed from the moneys standing in the treasurer's books to the credit of the Immigration Fund Account. The balance in favour of the fund on the 30th September, 1869, was 12,163*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, and the balance left to the credit of the fund on the 30th September, 1870, was 2,252*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

This fund, which was constituted by law in its present form in the year 1862, is replenished, whenever necessary, by loans specially raised, as may become requisite from time to time ; the amount of its debt being, on the other hand, in constant process of reduction, by annual or other periodical payments charged to the annual immigration revenue from exports and head money. These loans are by law so arranged, that every loan must be wholly paid off from revenue in the course of fifteen years. The principle is, that as the services of the immigrants imported in any year are useful for a series of years, the cost of their importation should be spread over a series of years. The number of immigrants imported, and consequently the expenses in any year, depend entirely on the number of immigrants indentured for by planters. Consequently the charges sometimes exceed and sometimes fall short of the year's revenue.

The following Table gives the whole of the Treasury receipts of the

year 1869-70, both of revenue and of other moneys, as compared with those of the year immediately preceding:—

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1869-70 AND 1868-69.

	1869-70.			1868-69.			More.			Less.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import Duty (old) -	192,187	19	11½	184,632	14	7	8,355	5	4½	—	—	—
" " (addi- tional) -	9,446	14	4½	18,465	10	0	—	—	—	*9,018	15	7½
Tonnage Dues -	10,447	10	6	17,166	2	7	—	—	—	†6,718	12	1
Excise—Rum Duty -	78,263	11	6	74,178	4	6	4,085	7	0	—	—	—
" Spirit Licences	13,567	10	0	11,537	10	0	2,030	0	0	—	—	—
Trade Licences—Old	466	2	6	471	16	0	—	—	—	5	13	6
" " New	7,132	0	0	6,922	3	10	209	16	2	—	—	—
Stamps -	11,482	3	10½	12,365	2	4½	—	—	—	882	18	6
Land Tax—Old—	7,348	12	8	8,516	4	2½	—	—	—	1,267	11	6½
Roads -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Land Tax—Property	4,319	7	5½	4,566	7	5½	—	—	—	247	0	0
Tax—New -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poor Rate—House	17,228	16	4	16,491	2	10½	931	13	5½	—	—	—
Tax -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Horse and Wheel Tax	20,939	13	2	21,571	8	10	—	—	—	631	15	8
—Roads -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tax on Stock -	3,203	9	11	8,848	2	10½	—	—	—	†5,644	12	11½
Dog Tax—New -	136	14	0	193	12	0	—	—	—	56	18	0
Post Office -	13,067	16	9	12,739	2	9	328	14	0	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	24,379	17	0½	16,155	8	10	8,124	8	2½	—	—	—
Total Revenue -	414,418	0	0½	414,826	13	8½	—	—	—	408	13	8½
RECEIPTS ON ACCOUNT OF IMMIGRATION FUNDS.												
Export Duty -	22,556	18	7	23,773	9	5	—	—	—	1,216	10	10½
Capitation Tax, &c. -	3,547	19	6	3,839	10	4	—	—	—	291	10	10
RECEIPTS ON DEBT ACCOUNT.												
Excess of Deposits in Treasury over withdrawals -	8,236	7	5	33,457	15	10	—	—	—	25,221	8	5
Grand Total Receipts	448,759	5	6½	475,897	9	3½	—	—	—	27,138	3	9½

* Ceased from April 1, 1870.

† Abolished from April 1, 1870, with the exception of Lighthouse Dues.

‡ Abolished from August 1, 1870.

From this Table it will be seen that, notwithstanding a loss of 21,382*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, attributable to taxes which ceased, or were abolished, within the year, the general revenue of 1869-70, on the whole, fell short of the general revenue of 1868-69, only by 408*l.* 13*s.* 8½*d.*

The principal sources of increased revenue will be found in import duties, excise, and miscellaneous. Under this last head are included prison sales and other disbursements in aid, fees of district and petty session courts, and the proceeds of fines, forfeited recognizances, &c., &c. In the main this item represents, virtually, deductions from charges.

The current expenditure in the year amounted to 368,600*l.*, as against 333,517 in the year 1868-69. Below is a Table showing the Treasury disbursements of the year under report, both on account

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of current expenditure, and on all other accounts, contrasted with those of the preceding year.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEARS 1869-70, 1868-69.

	1869-70.	1868-69.	More.	Less.
	£	£	£	£
Civil - - - - -	20,912	20,024	888	—
Judicial - - - - -	15,640	15,332	308	—
" District Courts - - - - -	11,457	10,118	1,339	—
Revenue - - - - -	32,615	30,394	2,221	—
Botanic Gardens, &c. - - - - -	1,542	1,233	309	—
Post Office - - - - -	13,353	10,782	2,571	—
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	21,774	25,527	—	3,753
Medical - - - - -	18,313	16,931	1,382	—
Constabulary - - - - -	40,586	38,921	1,665	—
Prisons - - - - -	22,450	20,624	1,826	—
Education - - - - -	9,190	6,244	2,946	—
Miscellaneous - - - - -	5,413	4,480	933	—
Military - - - - -	3,651	1,621	2,030	—
Roads - - - - -	44,731	35,419	9,312	—
Buildings and Works - - - - -	22,680	9,053	13,627	—
Pensions - - - - -	11,128	8,684	2,444	—
Lighthouses - - - - -	1,201	1,288	—	87
Harbour Masters - - - - -	108	142	—	34
Parochial Expenditure - - - - -	27,520	26,575	945	—
Interest on Debt - - - - -	44,336	50,125	—	5,789
Total current Expenditure - - - - -	368,600	333,517	35,083	—
Sinking Funds - - - - -	4,930	14,930	—	10,000
Redemption of Debt from Revenue - - - - -	950	6,800	—	5,850
Total Disbursements, exclusive of charges on Immigration Fund Account - - - - -	374,480	355,247	19,233	—
Charges on Immigration Fund Account - - - - -	36,026	32,447	3,569	—
Grand Total Disbursements - - - - -	410,496	387,694	22,802	—

The increase of expenditure is principally in the items of buildings and works, roads, education, post-office, pensions, revenue charges, and military. The three first of these items and the item of pensions will be noticed in other parts of this Report. The increase in the Post-office Department is mainly owing to the non-payment until 1869-70 of a portion of the amount due to the Imperial Government on account of ocean postage, in the preceding year, and is therefore mainly nominal. There was consequently a trifling excess of charges over receipts in this Department. The increase in the revenue charges is due to the appointment of a supervisor of excise, with a special view to the excise branch, who, however, is most usefully employed also in other branches, and to the organization, in the early part of 1869, of the office of the new functionary designated the Collector-General, who presides over every branch of the revenue. The increase under the head of Military is owing to the grant this year of an allowance of so much a head to all non-commissioned officers and privates, in compensation for customs duties formerly refunded to the canteens, which formerly did not appear as a charge at all. This, therefore, is a nominal increase. There was an increase in the charges of the district courts, caused by the operation for the whole year of the three additional district courts constituted in

1869, and by the appointment of a district court judge specially for the Kingston Court, which had been before served by Mr. Cargill, one of the judges of the Supreme Court. There was an increase of medical charges, consequent on the extended organization of the new medical service, and the establishment of the new Lepers' Home, but, on the other hand, the expenditure under the head of Quarantine has been much less than it was in 1869. The Constabulary Department having been in operation for the whole year, its substitution for the old police having been completed in 1869, has caused an increased expenditure under this head. Of the increase shown under the head of Prisons, 500*l.* is attributable to a greater expenditure on the Government Reformatory at Stony Hill, and the remainder is accounted for by an increased number of prisoners in confinement. On the other hand, there has been a considerable decrease of expenditure under the head of Ecclesiastical, owing to casual vacancies in the Establishment, which have not been filled up by reason of the disestablishment and eventual disendowment of the Church of England in Jamaica. And there has been a most satisfactory decrease under the head of Interest on Debt (5,789*l.*), in consequence of the relief afforded in respect of the guaranteed loan, under the provisions of the Acts recently passed for applying the existing sinking funds to the extinction of part of the debt, and for extending the period for the redemption of the remainder.

Pensions.

Pensions to the amount of 325*l.* a year were granted to clergymen retiring from the Establishment, whose places have not been filled up; and special compensation in the form of pensions to the extent of 2,364*l.* 4*s.* a year was granted to other officers who had lost their offices in consequence of economical reforms introduced into their departments.

Under the general superannuation system introduced, pensions were granted in regular course amounting to 1,317*l.* 13*s.*, and the pension list has been relieved to the amount of 842*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* by deaths and re-employment of pensioners in the course of the year. The increased annual charge on the pension list is at the rate of 3,163*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

Debt.

As in the year before, so in year 1869–70, no loan for which the general revenues of the Colony are responsible was raised, in addition to the previously existing debt. But further instalments, amounting in all to 11,000*l.* of the Kingston Market Loan under Law 7 of 1869, were taken up, the debentures (carrying six per cent. interest) selling at favourable premiums, as high in one case as seven per cent.

Under the arrangements authorized by the Imperial Statute 32 and 33 Victoria, chapter 69, and the Local Law 39 of 1869 (which was explained in my last year's Report), the guaranteed debt of 600,000*l.* has been reduced by the considerable sum of 227,800*l.*, debentures to that amount having been paid off out of the proceeds of the sinking funds heretofore provided on account of the loans.

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Under the Imperial Statute above cited, an issue of new debentures, representing 367,600*l.*, has been made, of which 211,100*l.* have been sold, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of a like value of debentures under the former Guaranteed Loan Law. The remainder, 156,500*l.*, are retained in the hands of the trustees of the sinking funds to be sold in order to pay off, or buy in, as opportunity offers, the yet outstanding debentures of the loan. The debentures of the new issue kept in the hands of the trustees bear no interest until they are issued to the public.

The guaranteed debt of 600,000*l.* has thus been converted, practically, into a debt of 367,000*l.*, to be paid off in 27 years.

The immediate relief to the Colony consists in a reduced payment of interest and sinking fund of 15,168*l.* per annum for the first two years of the term, of 12,252*l.* per annum for the next nine years, and of 7,944*l.* per annum for the four years following this last term. The operation has also effected a positive saving of capital amounting to about 60,800*l.*, by putting a stop to the large and annually increasing loss of money at compound interest, arising from the difference of rates between the interest paid on the debt, and the interest accruing from the sinking fund maintained for its redemption. The sinking fund of the new loan is invested, not in Consols, but in approved Indian or Colonial securities, bearing interest not at lower, as heretofore, but at higher rates than that paid by Jamaica on the loan itself.

The issue of debentures at five per cent. in substitution of debentures at six per cent., under the provisions of Law 47 of 1869 (which was also explained in my last year's Report), has favourably progressed.

At the end of the year now under report, six per cent. debentures to the value of 63,850*l.* had been presented for conversion into five per cent. debentures of equal amount, and since that time a further and similar conversion of debentures to the extent of 50,410*l.* has been effected. Thus 1,142*l.* annually is saved in interest.

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
To loans :—		By redemption of loans :—	
New debentures issued ..	£ —	Guaranteed loan, 17 Vic. ..	£ 388,900
Consolidated Guaranteed		immigration do.	
Loan Law 39 .. £367,600		15 and 16 Vic.	50,000
Less in hands of		Loan 18 Vic. cap. 66	4,300
trustees of sink-		" 21 Vic. cap. 34	46,300
ing fund not		" 21 Vic. cap. 44, and 22	
bearing interest 156,500		Vic. cap. 24	27,450
	211,100	Loan 24 Vic. cap. 26	1,800
Consolidated Loan Law 47		" 25 Vic. cap. 44	5,000
of 1869	63,850	" 27 Vic. cap. 24	200
	274,950	" 27 Vic. cap. 37	2,200
Difference being reduction		" 29 Vic. cap. 4	8,550
in debt	261,400	" Law 2 of 1867	600
		" Law 23 of 1868	100
		By redemption of loans from	
		expenditure loan, 28 Vic	
		cap. 24	950
	£536,350		£536,350

A further effect of this law is, that under it provision is made for the redemption of 73,450*l.* of loans, for meeting which at maturity provision heretofore had not been made. These will now be met as they fall due (unless paid off from the cash in chest) from the proceeds of five per cent. debentures, to be issued for the purpose, under the authority of this law.

During the year 32,650*l.* of debt were paid off from the surplus revenue of last year, and 950*l.* from the revenue of the current year, causing an annual saving of interest to the extent of 2,016*l.*

The preceding Table shows the operations of the year on debt account.

A sum of 4,930*l.* was invested in sinking funds for the eventual redemption of debt on account of Island loans for general objects, and an investment of 1,171*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* was made on the like account from the immigration revenues in respect of immigration loans.

The public debt stood as follows on the 30th September of each of the last five years, after making allowance in every year for the sinking funds invested for the redemption of debt:—

				£	s.	d.
1866	-	-	-	757,316	17	8
1867	-	-	-	788,090	19	1
1868	-	-	-	771,140	12	3
1869	-	-	-	746,043	17	5
1870	-	-	-	665,643	11	3

For each year, to these sums must be added the amounts due by the Treasury to certain local works, for which loans had been specially raised by Statute, under the late Government. These amounts are now reduced to 13,324*l.* In 1866 they exceeded 16,080*l.*

The interest paid this year on all loans amounted to 46,633*l.*, which sum includes 2,297*l.* on account of immigration loans—a reduction of 8,000*l.* from the amount paid last year, which was 54,633*l.*

Land.

A very important operation was commenced, and some progress was made in carrying it out this year.

One of the worst evils in the Colony is the extent to which the practice of squatting is carried.

So far as squatters may be allowed to settle themselves on the lands of owners resident themselves in the Colony, or having a representative here, the evil cannot be remedied by Government action. It is true that the loss of rent to the owner may be to him no great matter. But the demoralization which the practice inflicts upon the Colony is a great matter. Nevertheless the Legislative Council having provided, by means of the district courts, and the District Courts Land Law, a cheap, easy, and certain means of recovering possession of lands from persons having no title, and no colour of title thereto, the rest must be left in these cases to the good sense of the parties interested. But the greatest number of squatters are upon lands to which it is unknown whether any title except that of the Crown exists, and it is certain that if such a title do exist, the unknown party entitled has

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abandoned all care or concern with the land. A population of squatters upon extensive tracts of land of this sort is not only a public nuisance of great magnitude, but a serious danger. For the law being against these people, who live under the daily risk of eviction, they naturally are against the law ; instead of being as peasant proprietors, or peasant renters should be, among the strongest supporters of the law.

The District Courts Land Law enables the Crown, where no owner is apparent, and where land is squatted upon by persons having no claim or colour of title, or right of any sort, after a suit in the district court, to enter upon the land, provisionally, on behalf of the owner, should an owner come forward within seven years, and to grant seven years' leases (either to the former squatters or to others) in the same way as an owner can grant them.

The result is that the squatters are not ill-satisfied to get a good lease for a fair rent, in exchange for their previously precarious possession. In fact they have made no serious opposition to the legal action taken by the Crown agents. No ill-feeling whatever has ever been reported to me as having arisen in consequence of the enforcement on the part of the Crown, of this law ; under which in no very long time the greatest social and political evil we have to deal with in this Colony will be quietly eradicated.

Upwards of 12,000 acres of such lands as I have here described had been surveyed at the close of the financial year 1869-70 ; and considerable portions of these lands have now been actually taken possession of provisionally by the Crown, under judicial decrees, and have been lawfully leased to willing tenants for periods of seven years. On the 30th September, 1870, 189 squatters had been ejected from 4,441 acres of land, under judicial decree. The action taken in this matter is universally regarded as highly beneficial to the Colony, both in a political and economical point of view. The status of the squatter himself, if he takes the land on lease, is raised by the change. The temptation of being able to get land without paying any rent for it induces men to separate themselves from civilization ; whilst the uncertainty of possession belonging to the position of a squatter is inconsistent with all steady habits of industry, and with all improvement in agriculture.

Public Works.

On roads and bridges the following sums have been expended in each of the last five financial years, as shown by the treasurer's books, exclusive for the year 1866 of a sum of 2,203*l.* from the balance of a loan raised by the late Government for main road purposes :—

	1865-66.	1866-67.	1867-68.	1868-69.	1869-70.
	£	£	£	£	£
Main Roads - - -	18,182	12,710	15,746	18,840	26,676
Parochial Roads - - -	12,464	14,093	13,190	16,579	18,055
	30,646	26,803	28,936	35,419	44,731

Owing to the extreme severity of the weather, heavy rain having

fallen with but little intermission from the month of May to the end of the year, the sum expended for the maintenance of roads and bridges (18,447*l.*) was in excess of the estimate for the financial year 1869-70 by 1,652*l.*, and the cost per mile was 26*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, whereas the cost per mile in 1868-69 was only 19*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* The great traffic in logwood which had sprung up within the last two years had a marked effect in increasing the cost of maintenance. This traffic is carried on in all weathers; and when there has been a long continuance of rain, the heavily-loaded carts do much damage to roads not specially constructed to withstand such traffic.

The sum expended on the construction of new roads and bridges during this year was 8,516*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*; and the principal works of this nature were the following:—

The new road to connect Annotto Bay with Port Maria was completed.

The road from Kingston to Morant Bay was diverted at a point near to the White Horses, by which a steep and dangerous hill is avoided.

The grand interior road through St. Ann and Trelawny (of which the parochial system has been relieved, the line having been assumed into the main road system) made favourable progress towards the condition proper for a main road; and improvements were made in some dangerous parts of the road across the Island from Kingston to Annotto Bay.

Explorations were continued as far as practicable, along an intended line of bridle road between the Bogue Hill in St. Elizabeth and Coxheath in Trelawny. This line will connect, where the Island is broadest, the roads on the south side of the central ridge of mountain with those on the north side. It is confidently expected that a practicable line will ultimately be found; but from the nature of the mountainous and jungly country through which the line passes, the work is one involving much time and labour. A new engineer for the Western District has arrived from England, and the work will now be prosecuted more steadily.

The bridle road from Ulster Spring, a place near the centre of the Island, to join the last-mentioned line near Troy, was also progressing favourably; though much damage had been done to it by the continuous heavy rains, one landslip alone carrying away 65 chains of the road in a moment.

The construction of the new road from Free Town on the Vere Road to Rules Pen on the main road from Kingston to Manchester, was commenced under contract; and some progress was made with the road between Milk River and the old toll gate on the same main road to Manchester; though here, as elsewhere, the bad weather (coupled with the logwood traffic) had been much against systematic road making.

The most important work set on foot during the year was the Rio Minho, or Dry-River Bridge, on the main road from Kingston, westwards, for which in the course of the year the drawings were completed; the iron was ordered from England, and a contract was entered into for the earthworks and masonry, on which a commencement had been made before the year closed. At the present date the

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ironwork has arrived, and great progress has been made with the work, which will be reported next year.

This important work is estimated now to cost 16,207*l.*; of this amount 8,250*l.* is a debt due by the chest, being the balance of a loan raised for the purpose of bridging this river, under a law passed in 1864 by the House of Assembly. A commencement was made under the late Government, and 5,810*l.* were spent on iron girders, which it is now found cannot be used for this bridge; and on the land and some works, most of which was money thrown away. Financial necessities stopped the work, not unfortunately, I believe; and thus about half the cost will be met in the payment of a debt.

The Nightingale Grove Bridge, an iron structure of 70 feet span, on the same line of main road, was completed this year, and was opened for traffic.

The Barton Bridge near Black River was reconstructed; and several bridges of less importance were built or reconstructed.

The parochial roads received this year an important increase in the fund available to them. These roads, which are of great local importance, are on the whole well and cheaply managed by the gentlemen composing the Parochial Road Boards. Formerly four-fifths of the horse and wheel tax, now designated "Parochial Road Tax," were appropriated to these roads; the remaining fifth being taken as a contribution to the main roads. Last year the whole expenditure upon main roads was defrayed from the general revenues; and thus one-fifth of this tax was left in the hands of the Executive Government to be granted for new roads, bridges, and other important works for which the funds of the several parishes may be insufficient. The grants are not made rateably, but for whatever parochial works may be found most useful all over the Island. In the financial year 1869-70 this one-fifth amounted to 3,999*l.*, whereof 1,100*l.* were granted to parishes for particular works, leaving a balance of 2,899*l.* to be carried to the credit of this extra fund in the current year. This measure has been a most acceptable boon to the country districts.

During the financial year 1869-70 there was spent in the repair or construction of works other than roads and bridges, 38,188*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* This sum was expended in the following manner:—

	£	s.	d.
On churches - - - -	2,591	0	6
On hospitals - - - -	8,604	8	11
On prisons - - - -	1,299	5	10
Court-houses - - - -	607	3	2
Other works - - - -	25,086	18	11

Churches.—A new church was commenced at St. Ann's Bay, and was progressing favourably. The erection of this building was undertaken in order to pay a debt due by the chest to the congregations. Under statutes passed in the years 1862 and 1863 by the late Legislature, a loan of 2,000*l.* had been raised for the purpose of building a new church at St. Ann's Bay, but owing to the financial pressure the work was not undertaken at the time. As soon as a surplus made it possible to do so, the money due was made available.

Public Hospital.—Alterations and additions to the Public Hospital

in Kingston, formerly determined upon, were carried on during the year. A new Surgical Hospital, containing an operating room, two wards, and a matron's quarters, was erected.

Lock Hospital.—This building was completed during the year.

Lunatic Asylum.—Two extensive new ranges (one for males and one for females), containing each thirty-two separate rooms, were completed.

Union Hospitals for Coolies.—The Union Hospitals at Chapelton, in Vere, and at Annotto Bay, were completed.

Prisons.—Improvements were made at the Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol, and a wharf was erected at the General Penitentiary to facilitate the landing and shipping of materials.

Treasury and Audit Departments.—The old Treasury building in Harbour Street, Kingston, was repaired, altered, and fitted up as convenient offices for the Treasury and Audit Departments.

Customs Department.—Additional warehouses were erected in Kingston, and various other improvements were made in the buildings of this establishment. The premises at Falmouth, known as Thorpe's Wharf, were purchased and fitted up as Customs offices and public bonding warehouses.

Falmouth Harbour.—The rock called the "Weather Triangle," referred to in my last Report, which formed the main obstacle in the entrance to this harbour, was entirely removed in the year under report. Where the rock stood there is now a depth of 26 feet of water, shallowing to 22 feet near the reefs at the side of the channel. To obtain this depth of water 1,408 tons of rock had to be blasted and carried into deep water. In addition to three large buoys placed to mark the extremes of the reef on each side of the entrance, five permanent and conspicuous marks of iron have been erected on shoals inside the harbour, which formerly were sources of much danger and annoyance to ships taking up their berths. The harbour is now considered by the shipmasters frequenting it easy and safe. The whole cost of these operations has been only 771*l*.

The erection of the new market for Kingston made fair progress during the year. The sea-wall was nearly completed.

The works and property of the late Sligo Waterworks Company in Spanish Town were purchased by the Government, at the sale of their property consequent upon the enforced winding up of the Company, which had ceased to supply water, and was helplessly insolvent. The winding up was at the suit of Government. Credit was given to Government for about 720*l*., being the dividend due upon a loan of 12,000*l*. which was made to the Company by the Colony in 1834. New machinery has been ordered from England, and a new reservoir was in course of construction, for the purpose once more of supplying water to Spanish Town.

District Courts.

The business transacted in these lately instituted courts during the year, as compared with the preceding year, is shown in the following Table :—

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	1869.	1870.
Criminal trials - - - - -	1,256	1,712
Small causes - - - - -	3,133	5,509
Equity cases - - - - -	2	10
Cases under the Land Law - - -	133	137
Insolvency cases - - - - -	9	147
Probate cases - - - - -	35	43
Amount claimed - - - - -	22,910	29,070
Paid into Court before judgment -	920	920
Judgment obtained for - - - -	11,386	14,919
Costs - - - - -	2,109	2,774
Court fees - - - - -	2,154	3,225

The increase in the business of these courts on all their sides is satisfactory, as showing the confidence of suitors, and the greater depth to which the influence of an effective administration of justice in a practical spirit is penetrating.

Botanic Gardens and Plantations.

In consequence of the development of the Botanic Garden at Castleton, by the introduction lately of a very large number of new species, and the consequently increased requirements of the institution, it was considered necessary to secure the services of a botanical gardener from England, to assist the Superintendent in the discharge of his duties, and to reside at and to take immediate charge of the garden, which is at a distance of about 34 miles from the Cinchona Plantation, on Blue Mountain, where Mr. Thompson, the Superintendent, resides. For this purpose, by the kind help of Dr. Hooker, at Kew, the services of an experienced and highly-qualified gardener were obtained as Assistant to the Superintendent, who took charge of his duties at Castleton in December, 1870.

Upwards of 200 species of plants, new to the Island, were introduced during the year. Amongst these, perhaps, the most interesting were two plants of ipecacuanha, both of which are reported to be thriving. These are in addition to the single rather delicate plant of this species which we before possessed. This druggist's plant has now become of inestimable value as an object of cultivation, from the discovery of the extraordinary properties of ipecacuanha, in large doses in cases of tropical dysentery, in which disease it is now found to act as a specific, much as quinine does in tropical fevers. Two true maugosteens and five choice varieties of pine-apple have been imported during the year; as also four noted varieties of orange, new to the Island. The Bombay grafted mangoes imported two years ago are very flourishing, some of them being already 5 feet high. My belief is that there is nothing to prevent Jamaica becoming, for the quality, variety, and commercial value of its fruit, the most noted spot in the world, when gardening shall be understood, and the value of the art shall be duly recognized here.

Two acres of the Sisal hemp aloe (*Agave Sisalana*) were planted at Castleton during the year, and a few more acres have been prepared for the extension of this cultivation. A sample of the fibre prepared at Castleton was forwarded to a London broker, and has

been pronounced by him to be of very good quality and colour, much finer and larger than the Sisal hemp imported from Mexico, and worth at the time he wrote about 60*l.* per ton, which price was by 10*l.* to 12*l.* above the ordinary price.

One hundred thousand plants of China grass were advertised for sale during the year, at 10*s.* per 1,000; and applications for about 30,000 plants have been received. It is in contemplation to import a machine for the preparation of the fibre for the market so soon as the Indian Government have awarded their prize for the best China grass machine. If the machine works satisfactorily it is probable that some persons may be found to embark largely in the culture of this valuable fibre.

The famous Jamaica Botanic Garden of ancient times, which was not only of the highest intrinsic value, but also was admirably situated, was sold, I believe, for a trifle, and was broken up a long time ago in some spasmodic fit of false economy. More lately a botanic garden was established at Bath. The site was unfortunately selected, being a long day's journey from the capital. But the purchase in 1859 of Castleton, and its formation in 1863 into a new botanic garden, in substitution for the garden at Bath (finally abandoned in 1866), is said to have been determined upon because of serious damage caused and threatened at Bath by a watercourse. The selection of Castleton as the site of the new garden was also unfortunate, as it is at a distance of 18 miles from Kingston, and it is important to interest the public as much as possible in such an institution as a botanic garden. But the selection having been made, and a large number of plants having been established there, whilst the position, except in respect to its distance from the capital, is unexceptionable, it would have been unwise once more to have thrown away all that our predecessors had done for us by removal to a fourth position. It was determined, therefore, to treat the Castleton garden as a fixture; and as it is not too far from Kingston for a holiday excursion, to go to some little expense in its gradual establishment, in the hope of attracting visitors to what I believe will certainly become one of the most interesting spots in the West Indies. In this direction a commencement has now been made, by the construction of a handsome tank for the *Victoria Regia*, and of a fernery, &c.

The *Cinchona* Plantation continues to make progress in a very satisfactory manner. The *Cinchona officinalis* has now obtained a height of 11 feet, and the other species have increased in like proportion, the circumference of the stems being double what it was twelve months ago.

In 1870 the trees have had to encounter very windy and rainy weather, which prevailed from August to the end of the year. The extraordinary rainfall of 24 inches in 30 hours was noted at the plantation on the 17th and 18th November; and there is reason to believe that the rainfall must have considerably exceeded 150 inches during five months. But the only injury done by this heavy weather has been the loss of from 500 to 600 young trees by a landslip, and some suspension of clearing operations. The year before had been characterized by a very extraordinary drought. The plants, therefore, as the Superintendent remarks, "have thus passed satisfactorily an

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“ordeal of two years, exhibiting the most marked extremes of seasons to which tropical countries are liable.”

During the year 30 acres of mountain land have been cleared and planted out in cinchonas, estimated to number 30,000 plants. A new system of close planting was adopted in planting out this lot, and the result is reported to be in every way satisfactory. The entire area of land planted with cinchonas at the end of the year 1870 is nearly 90 acres; and 80 more acres of forest land have been prepared for planting, which Mr. Thompson hopes to fill before the end of the current year.

I understand that satisfactory accounts have been received of the condition of cinchonas which have been planted at Mount Moses, in St. Andrew, and in the parish of Manchester, by two gentlemen who take an interest in the propagation of this valuable plant.

The Superintendent reports that about 2,000 plants have been raised from seeds of some 12 species of rapid-growing trees, among them several species of the gum-trees of Australia. These trees are of some commercial importance, but they are intended chiefly to afford shelter to the young cinchonas.

The 800 plants of Assam tea planted out in 1869 are in vigorous health.

Owing to the difficulty of procuring seeds in sufficient quantity, only one acre of senna was planted on the palisades; but the plants are growing well, and are yielding seeds plentifully. Some of the patches of senna have been cropped. The cultivation of this plant will utilize the wide intervening spaces between the young cocoa-nut trees, and it is expected to be profitable. Specimens of the first crop are in preparation for transmission to London for examination and report. In this, as in many other articles of produce, the only difficulty is in the preparation for the market.

Education.

Three hundred and seventy-one schools were in 1870 on the list for inspection, being an increase of 101 over last year.

The Inspector of Schools attributes this very large increase to the liberal encouragement offered to schools by Government of late years; to the abandonment of certain objections in certain quarters to Government aid for schools; and to the assistance afforded at the beginning of the year by opening grants. Of the above number, it was found at inspection time that 42 schools were either not ready for examination or were closed. But 329 schools were actually examined, making an increase of 67 as compared with last year.

There is no doubt that a still greater number of schools would have been ready for inspection this year but for the difficulty of procuring competent teachers. This want is still an obstacle in the way of increasing the number of our schools; but in addition to the private training establishments heretofore in operation, measures were taken this year by the Government, at the public charge, for training additional Normal pupils at the Mico Institution; and a Government Training College at Stoney Hill was established, under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Melville, Manager of the Reformatory at the same

place. Thus, besides the private training pupils, an additional body of 23 young men is now under training for schoolmasters at the public charge; and this system will soon begin to have a telling effect upon schools.

While in 1869 45 schools wholly failed to come up to the lowest Government standard, only 31 so failed in the year under report. The result of the inspection of 1870, as compared with that of 1869, is thus shown:—

	1870.	1869.
First class - - - -	4	3
Second class - - - -	35	20
Third class- - - -	206	173
Total passed - - -	245	196

The second-class schools have thus increased to nearly twice as many as last year, and are 10 per cent. of the whole number of schools inspected; whereas last year they were only 7 per cent. of that number.

There were 53 schools which received half grants. Although these did not quite come up to the Government requirements, such grants were considered to be justified by peculiar circumstances, and by way of encouragement. The results of the last two years have shown the good effects of this exceptional encouragement, several schools having risen to the third, and some even to the second class, which had been at first admitted exceptionally to half grants of this sort.

The total amount of the grants-in-aid made this year has increased to 5,857*l.* from 4,461*l.* in 1869. This increase, which is a little over 31 per cent. upon last year's grants, as the Inspector of Schools reports, "would have been higher but for the prevailing rains, which had the effect of lowering the attendances, and consequently of reducing the grants on capitation." Mr. Savage adds, that "it may be worthy of note, if only as an illustration of the liberal and progressive tendency of the Government scheme, that the grants this year are very nearly double what they were for the same purpose in the first year (1868) under the new regulations."

The Church of England Schools have earned this year 2,115*l.*; the Wesleyans, 989*l.*; the Baptist, 892*l.*; the Moravians, 703*l.*; and the Presbyterian, 388*l.* The grants-in-aid to the several other smaller religious denominations, with two exceptions, have exceeded those of the previous year. The London Missionary Society earned this year 229*l.*, whereas in 1869 only 17*l.* was granted to this body. The school fees collected by all the schools for the year amount in all to 3,785*l.*, showing an increase over the collections of last year of 679*l.*; and these fees, which are insisted upon in aided schools, taken as a whole, fully come up to the Government requirements.

The object of the opening grants, which were introduced last year, is for the purpose of enabling trustworthy managers or teachers to establish new schools in destitute districts. General conditions have been laid down upon which these grants are issued. The schools which receive opening grants are eligible to receive the annual grants, according to Government regulations, after they shall have been in operation three months. These opening grants are paid in

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two instalments—the first being for buildings and appliances, and the second for the teacher's allowance. The second instalment is paid when the Government have been informed of the school being ready to commence school operations. Sixty-four applications for these grants were received from all parts of the Island. The total sum applied for was 2,780/., and the sum granted was 1,250/. This aid enabled 24 new schools to come actually under inspection this year.

The Industrial School system must still be considered to be in its infancy; but every effort is made to induce managers to introduce the industrial element into their schools, and to show to parents the usefulness of this method of education. There still continues, however, to be a strong dislike on the part of most of the parents to their children being employed by the teachers in any sort of manual labour; but, as shown by the Government Model School at Port Antonio, this obstacle is not invincible.

I regret to have to report unfavourably of the Government Model Schools at Falmouth and Montego Bay; the attendance at both of these schools had declined considerably before the end of the year. It was considered advisable to close the Montego Bay Model School, and the appliances belonging to it have been handed over on loan to the Wesleyan body, who are establishing a good school at that place.

The Bath Model School, under Mr. Elworthy, is going on favourably. A school museum and a small library have been established there for the instruction of the pupils in general knowledge, and these adjuncts promise to be of benefit.

The Government Model School, which was transferred from Port Maria to Port Antonio at the beginning of the year, and to which I referred in my last year's Report, is, the Inspector of Schools reports, the most hopeful and promising of all the Government schools, and one that is likely to prove of great advantage to the parish. This school is industrial, and all the pupils who join the industrial classes have their school fees remitted, while the rest pay the usual rates. Two workmasters have been appointed to the school, and have proved very serviceable in directing the labour of the pupils.

The total sum expended upon the Department of Education for each of the last five years is as follows:—

1865-1866	-	-	-	-	-	£	3,445
1866-1867	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,987
1867-1868	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,120
1868-1869	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,244
1869-1870	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,190

The amount expended in the year under report was thus apportioned:—

Inspection -	-	-	-	-	-	£	1,264
Grants-in-aid	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,531
Government Schools	-	-	-	-	-	-	882
Training students	-	-	-	-	-	-	313
St. George's Chapel School	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
							<hr/>
							£9,190
							<hr/>

Immigration.

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During the year 1870 the following Coolie immigrants were introduced into the Island:—

Males	-	-	-	-	-	594
Females	-	-	-	-	-	260
Infants	-	-	-	-	-	52
Total						<u>906</u>

Applications have been received for 2,287 immigrants for the season of 1871.

The following Table shows the number of immigrants in the Colony at the close of the years 1869 and 1870, who were still subject to the operation of the Immigration Laws:—

	1869.	1870.
Number under unexpired indenture for five years	2,627	3,268
Number who had served their five years' indenture, but had not completed their ten years' industrial residence	3,130	3,105
	<u>5,757</u>	<u>6,373</u>

In addition to the above there was a large but unascertained number of Coolies who, after their 10 years' industrial residence, had remained in the Colony as a part of the general population. An accurate knowledge of the number of this class of immigrants will be gained when the general census for 1871 is taken.

The health of that portion of the immigrant population which is engaged on estates was good during the year, except in the Plantain Garden River District of St. Thomas, where, I regret to say, there was much sickness and mortality.

Hitherto the amount of bounty was fixed at 10*l.* a head, but as this sum is less than the cost of a return passage, and it is desirable to hold out every possible encouragement to the Coolies to settle in the Colony, the amount was increased this year to 12*l.* for adults, male and female, and half that sum for children from 3 to 12 years of age, these sums being found to be within the average cost to the Colony of the back passage.

The immigrants imported in the year 1860 completed this year their term of 10 years' residence. Of the 592 immigrants who arrived in 1860, there were at the termination of their 10 years' residence, alive and eligible for return passages or bounty, 363; deserters or missing, 108.

During the 10 years there had been—

Births	-	-	-	-	-	122
Deaths	-	-	-	-	-	123

When the small proportion of women to men is considered, these figures speak well for the climate and its suitableness to the Indian

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constitution. Had the proportions of the sexes been equal, it may be inferred that the births would have trebled the deaths.

Of the 363 time-expired Coolies referred to above as eligible for return passages, 261 elected to remain in the Island, and were paid the bounty at the new rate. The remainder returned to India.

By Law 34 of 1869 the Governor is empowered to constitute "Union Hospitals" in any district in place of "Estate Hospitals." The cost of the erection of the necessary buildings, or of their rent, and of the supply of the necessary appliances, is made, in the first instance, a charge upon the Immigration Fund, which is afterwards reimbursed in the form of an annual rent-charge on the employers. The cost of medicines and nourishment for the patients is met by a direct charge upon the employers at a daily rate for each immigrant not exceeding 6*d.* a day. The charge for salaries and allowances to the necessary staff of medical officers, matrons, nurses, &c., is defrayed from the Immigration Fund.

Up to the end of the year under report seven Union Hospitals had been brought into operation, and placed under the supervision of Government medical officers.

They are as follows:—

Estate.	Parish.	Number of Coolies located.	Number of Beds.
Golden Grove - - - - -	St. Thomas - - - - -	559	56
Taylor's Caymanas - - - - -	St. Catherine - - - - -	111	14
Dundee - - - - -	Trelawny - - - - -	132	20
Savanna la Mar - - - - -	Westmoreland - - - - -	408	40
Suistead - - - - -	St. Catherine - - - - -	80	20
Dry Harbour - - - - -	Clarendon - - - - -	286	24
Lionel Town - - - - -	Ditto - - - - -	423	60

Some of the hospitals shown above are found to have an insufficient supply of beds in proportion to the number of Coolies for whom the hospital is provided. Arrangements are in progress for erecting additional buildings, and increasing the number of beds at those places. Several Union Hospitals are also about to be opened in other districts.

The establishment of a general "Coolie Dépôt" in Spanish Town, as a temporary home or hospital for sick and disabled Coolies who are not provided for on estates or in Union Hospitals, was narrated at length in last year's Report. The number of patients treated at this dépôt during the year was 181. Of these—

89 were discharged;
 81 recovered;
 6 died;
 6 were relieved from disease;
 49 remaining in dépôt on the 31st December.

Of this last number 19 have been returned to India in the course of the current year.

The head of the Immigration Department reports that the conduct

of the Coolie labourers generally was very satisfactory; that a good understanding exists between them and their employers; and that complaints from either side have been remarkably few, and none of a serious character.

Additional vigilance over the rights of the Coolie in relation to his employer, and of the employer in relation to the Coolie, has been the result of the practical working of Law 34 of 1869. While full wages are secured to the Coolies for the time spent by them in labour, a considerable number of them have been convicted for desertion and for refusing to work; there having been 133 convictions for these offences this year, as against none in the preceding year.

Savings Banks.

The number of depositors and the amount of their deposits in the banks not under Government control at the end of each of the last five years is as follows:—

Year.	Number of Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
1866	8	2,276	£ 56,740
1867	9	2,278	54,807
1868	8	2,524	58,913
1869	7	3,004	74,394
1870	7	2,205	63,486

In the course of the year 1870 the Government Savings Bank, described above under the head "Legislation," was established. The opening of this new institution more than accounts for the reduction of deposits in the private banks, which at the end of 1870 were preparing to close. In all the savings banks, at the end of 1870, the total deposits (79,686*l.*) showed on the year an increase of 5,292*l.* The total number of depositors in all savings banks on the 31st of December, 1870, was thus 2,674; and the total value of their deposits was 79,686*l.*

At the close of last month (30th June, 1871) the value of the deposits in the Government Savings Bank was 66,550*l.*, and in the other savings banks 17,753*l.*; in all 84,303*l.*; a gratifying result, which must be partly attributable to the successful working of this new measure. The number of depositors in the Government Savings Bank at the close of last month was 1,779.

Trade.

The value of the imports for each of the last five calendar years, excluding the value of the railway materials imported in 1868, 1869, and 1870 (amounting to 11,587*l.* in 1868, 10,353*l.* in 1869, and 243*l.* in 1870), is stated below.

	£
1866	1,030,796
1867	859,186
1868	1,012,279
1869	1,214,061
1870	1,300,212

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The improvement in trade shown in 1869 has been well maintained in 1870.

The Act imposing an additional 10 per cent. on the import duties expired on the 31st of March, 1870, and has not been renewed.

The tonnage dues, with the exception of 5*d.* a ton for lighthouse dues, ceased at the same time to be levied. The only impost on vessels arriving here now is the above small charge for lighthouse dues, and a charge for admeasurer's fees when occasionally the tonnage of a vessel has to be measured. The old tonnage duties were 2*s.* 4*d.* a ton on ocean-going, and 3*s.* 4*d.* a ton on coasting vessels, with extra dues on such vessels as entered certain north side outports. They were not a trifling impost, as they used to amount to a sum equal to from 6 to 7 per cent. of the amount of import duties, and to exceed considerably half the amount of the export duty levied for immigration purposes, a duty which, though in a manner self-imposed, for an important object, not being concealed in freight, as was the tonnage duty, is keenly felt. But it is not necessary for me to enlarge upon the argument, that whatever reduces the cost of freight, especially of export freight, is an advantage to the Colony. Consumers of imports must benefit, though they cannot trace their gain in figures, and I have not a doubt that in this direction the effect of the measure is already traceable in the books of all producers of exports.

With reference to the exemptions from import duty alluded to in my last year's Report, the following Table of the value of articles imported free for agriculture or other industrial objects is given in continuation of the former one.

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Iron, galvanized - - - -	464	1,238	1,985	1,902	3,142
„ other manufactures - - -	638	3,184	2,041	1,215	3,041
Machines, horse-power - -	5,186	6,879	8,023	6,644	7,139
Mills - - - - -	1,722	1,072	1,882	3,822	3,434
Pans for boiling sugar - -	1,427	603	984	2,409	4,676
Pipes for fluids - - - -	28	225	1,090	760	1,502
Railway wheels - - - -	nil.	nil.	11,587	10,353	243
Shooks of all sorts - - -	23,580	18,021	18,981	16,404	11,677
Stillis - - - - -	211	559	1,174	2,977	1,698
Steam engines - - - - -	nil.	101	3,046	6,904	5,460
Wood hoops - - - - -	2,346	1,225	2,773	2,264	2,981
„ staves - - - - -	1,241	5,587	6,418	3,847	3,823
Miscellaneous - - - - -	851	858	2,719	2,004	4,053
	37,694	39,552	62,703	61,505	52,869
Deducting railway material -	-	-	11,587	10,353	243
			51,116	51,152	52,626

The value of the exports for the last five calendar years was as shown below :—

	£
1866 - - - - -	1,152,898
1867 - - - - -	1,045,094
1868 - - - - -	1,138,804
1869 - - - - -	1,162,769
1870 - - - - -	1,283,026

The exports of the principal staples for the last five calendar years were as shown in the following Table :—

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Exports.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Sugar - - - hhds.	33,637	31,206	36,259	29,268	30,747
Rum - - - phns.	18,754	18,834	20,274	15,270	16,897
Coffee - - - lbs.	8,413,532	6,264,861	7,758,985	5,025,812	9,047,284
Pimento - - - lbs.	4,866,239	7,595,800	4,373,259	6,575,249	5,243,109
Dyewoods - - tous	36,570	48,481	49,129	118,678	84,744
(Fustic and Logwood.)					
Ginger - - - lbs.	1,550,166	1,728,075	2,036,921	1,261,873	680,492
Arrowroot - - lbs.	70,204	44,566	27,346	11,731	6,343

The sugar crop of 1867-68 was the largest there had then been for six years; that is to say, since 1861-62. That of 1869-70 was below the average. But the crop of the current year is expected to be large. The coffee crop of last year was the largest known for 32 years, that is to say, since 1838. The season was propitious; but there is a steadily increasing cultivation of coffee by the small settlers, which accounts for part of the increase. If the small settlers would pay the same attention to the curing of the berry that is paid by the large coffee planters, the aggregate value of the coffee exported from Jamaica would be greatly increased.

In connection with the decreased exportation of arrowroot which is noticeable in the above return, the subjoined extract from a report by the Collector-General is of interest. "The reduction both in the cultivation and export of arrowroot may be attributed to the limited demand for it as an article of commerce; the low prices realized for it in the English and foreign markets, where it is brought into competition with the Bermuda article, which frequently quadruples it in value; and because the ground provisions of the country can be cultivated by the small settlers with less labour, more ready sale, and greater profit. Recent quotations of arrowroot in the London prices current, show Bermuda at 1s. 2d. per lb., and Jamaica at 2½d.; this difference is attributable, I am informed, to the greater care with which the Bermuda arrowroot is manufactured, and not to any material nutritious superiority which it possesses over Jamaica. The choice (says my informant) lies in the perfect whiteness of the Bermuda article as sent home, our arrowroot being equally as nutritious and as rich in gluten or farina as its rival. Yet ours is in no favour with the chemist, grocer, confectioner, or hospital practice; the prejudice being occasioned by its stained appearance when unpacked abroad; and this appearance has been attributed by a writer on the subject to the roots being washed in water holding iron in solution, the stain of which is brought out only as a question of time."

The attention of the Island chemist has been called to the foregoing statement, with the view of ascertaining whether, if well manufactured, arrowroot cannot be produced here equal in appearance and value to that of Bermuda.

In respect of several minor articles of export, the returns of the Custom House for this year are interesting, as showing a tendency to

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the development of new industries, requiring little capital, and no extraordinary skill. Lime juice, for which there is now a large demand from the merchant service, and whereof this Island could supply any quantity, after a year's complete neglect has again in 1870 taken a good place amongst minor exports. I observe turtle preserved in tins for the first time figuring amongst our exports.

The steady increase for the last four years, previous to which there is no record, in the export of cocoa (chocolate), the cultivation of which is almost confined to two parishes on the north side, is a very interesting fact.

EXPORT OF COCOA IN CWTs.

1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
<u>133</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>489</u>	<u>644</u>

In very old times Jamaica was celebrated for its cocoa, with which it supplied Europe largely, and its natural advantages for the cultivation of this production (a cultivation I am told more remunerative, and certainly less difficult, than that of coffee) are of course what they were. But so disastrously did the system of the old planters, in the times of slavery and protection, act upon this ancient staple, that it ceased to figure as an export. It is and for some time has been an important and increasing article of cultivation and export in Trinidad. I hope now that in a few years it will become once more an important article of export here; as nothing would answer better the means and objects of the small settler, in the numerous spots which suit the plant.

But the most encouraging event that has occurred in the year under report is the springing up of a new trade with North America in fruits and yams, conveyed in small American schooners, chiefly from Port Antonio, in Portland. Bananas, cocoa-nuts, and oranges were the fruits chiefly exported; but the exports embrace no less than 17 descriptions of Island produce. The value of this new trade from Port Antonio alone amounted in the financial year 1869-70 to 1,985*l.*; and the return trade in imports was valued at 1,625*l.*, yielding, as the Collector-General remarks, "to the island in Customs revenue the sum of 304*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, at a small insignificant port, which had for many years ceased to be of any financial account to the Colony." This young trade is still increasing month by month, and shows a tendency to spread all along the north side of the Island. The collector of Portland writes that it has led to a very large cultivation of the Martinique banana, "not by the small settlers only, but by others as well." The market for tropical fruits in the northerly part of the United States is unlimited; and certainly fruit, which till last year had no place at all, ought long since to have taken a higher place amongst the exports of this Colony.

Whilst from the neighbouring Colony of the Bahama Islands, pine-apples in cargoes of from 3,000 to 5,000 dozen are annually exported to London and New York to the value of 30,000*l.* and upwards; and whilst it is well known that from Jamaica the English gardener obtained his finest variety of pine-apples; the export of this fruit hence extends no further than the transmission now and then of a

barrel by the mail steamer, as a present to a friend. From Nassau in the Bahamas, pine-apples are shipped in bulk; no attempt is made at selection, and no care is taken in the cultivation to obtain a good quality, or even a large size. Indeed I am not sure that it would be possible to grow a well-flavoured pine-apple in that latitude. The result is a cargo of excessively bad fruit, which costs for its transport from 350*l.* to 500*l.* The actual average valuation in 1864, at Nassau, was 1*s.* 10*d.* a dozen for shipments to the United States, and 2*s.* 9*d.* a dozen for shipments to London, to which place it seems the least bad of two classes of the fruit is sent. In the same year the average selling prices in England of these cargoes is stated at 12*s.* a dozen. From these statistics (gathered from a report of Governor Rawson's printed in 1866) I infer that the cost of transport being not very different from the two places, pine-apples well selected in Jamaica, which would sell in the London market at high prices, could be shipped for not much more than double the Nassau price of such fruits as are shipped from thence; where Governor Rawson says that purchasers for shipments "do not offer a higher price for larger or better fruit, the grower therefore has no inducement to improve the size or quality of his produce; he looks to quantity alone." It seems to me strange that commercial men here, and those commercial men in London who are in the Nassau fruit trade, find no ground for action in these facts.

It is my conviction that in oranges, limes, pine-apples, and bananas, all producible here of a quality not to be surpassed in any part of the world; and in cocoa-nuts and other fruits, all producible here in any quantities; Jamaica might become in a very short time capable of supporting an export fruit trade of immense value.

A comparison of the present export of rum with that in the days of slavery and protection, shows that the reduction of quantity has been very much less in rum than in sugar. It is in rum that Jamaica has an advantage over all other cane-growing places, Jamaica rum being worth from two to three times the price of the rum of other places. As first-class rum pays better than sugar, it is an object with the Jamaica planter, in most cases, to make a large proportion of rum, and on many estates as large a proportion as he can without injuring its quality. In 1837-38, from the juice that made 69,613 hogsheads of sugar, 25,380 puncheons of rum were made; being at the rate of about 36 puncheons to 100 hogsheads. In 1869-70, from the juice that made 31,066 hogsheads of sugar, 17,161 puncheons of rum were made, being at the rate of about 55 puncheons to 100 hogsheads. The average make of rum now is greater positively than it was from 20 to 30 years ago, when the average make of sugar was by one-third and more as much again as it is now. I look upon this result, which is very creditable to the skill of the Jamaica planter, as being a triumph of free trade, and sound principles of taxation. The English tax on sugar is so contrived as to discourage the making of good and high-priced sugar. The English tax on rum is such as to leave the manufacturer to make whatever quality of rum he finds most profitable, without imposing on him a penalty for not making bad rum. Consequently the Jamaica planter, whilst still making low and cheap sugars, makes exactly the same sort of rum he would make if that

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spirit were free of all duty at home. The result is the finest rum in the world, and the most profitable manufacture in the Colony.

The following Table, showing the number and tonnage of British and foreign vessels that cleared from Jamaica during each of the five years, affords a gratifying proof of an increasing trade.

Year.	British Vessels.		Foreign Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1866	411	136,629	82	26,249	493	162,878
1867	379	119,510	134	42,550	513	162,060
1868	390	108,666	158	48,518	548	157,184
1869	512	145,892	238	70,936	750	216,828
1870	482	155,398	219	60,358	701	215,756

I may mention that it is necessary, in dealing with Jamaica statistics, to be careful to distinguish between the calendar year and the financial year. The returns for the Blue Books, in respect of everything except finance, have been prepared hitherto for the calendar year.

Crime.

The criminal returns for 1870 show a decrease both in apprehensions and in imprisonments, as compared with the preceding year; the apprehensions having fallen from 16,480 to 13,620, and the imprisonments from 2,978 to 2,902. From the details of the apprehensions, however, it appears that the summary arrests on view effected by constables in 1870, largely exceeded those of 1869; there being an increase of 52 for felonies and misdemeanours against the person, of 204 for felonies and misdemeanours against property, and of 230 for miscellaneous misdemeanours.

The following Table affords a summary of the information on this head :—

Offences.	Apprehensions and Summons issued.		Convictions in the several Courts.	Commitments to Prison.	
	1869.	1870.	1870.	1869.	1870.
Felonies against the person -	97	125	71	50	67
Misdemeanours ditto -	2,838	2,445	1,956	333	384
Felonies against property -	4,748	3,714	1,281	1,176	1,068
Misdemeanours ditto -	2,532	1,935	1,061	701	650
Miscellaneous misdemeanours	5,664	5,124	3,016	494	556
Breaches of revenue laws -	439	184	91	8	13
Military and naval offences -	162	93	35	216	164
	16,480	13,620	7,511	2,978	2,902

The judicial fines paid in the year amounted to 1,520*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

The following Table shows the sentences to imprisonment passed on conviction for the larceny of growing crops, and the cognate offence of theft of small stock :—

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	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Larceny of growing crops—1st conviction - - -	457	381	409	562
Ditto—2nd or subsequent conviction - - -	269	192	167	118
Larceny of small stock - - -	116	83	113	107
	842	656	689	787

It will be observed that in 1870 there is a considerable increase in the convictions for larceny of growing crops. It does not necessarily follow that there has been an increase in the number of these offences. I have no reason to believe that there has been any such increase. The convictions of old offenders in this line are greatly reduced. I have no reason to suppose that the fact of a previous conviction has been more frequently overlooked in 1870 than in previous years.

Doubtless with a more perfect system of registration of convictions (which it is hoped will be attained), some of the cases treated as first convictions would have been transferred to the list of repeated convictions. But this will be equally true of previous years. So far as this decrease of repeated convictions goes, I know of no reason for doubting that the large reduction shown in 1870 is a satisfactory feature.

Inquiries are in progress into the system adopted for ascertaining before the trial of every prisoner charged with an offence for which a second conviction is punishable with whipping, whether he has been previously convicted of such an offence; with a view to improving the system pursued for obtaining such information, and bringing it to the knowledge of the judge before sentence is passed, if such improvement is requisite.

Of the 2,902 persons committed to the several prisons in 1870, 534 had been previously in prison, being a percentage of 18·4 on the total number of committals.

The sentences of juvenile offenders to the Government Reformatory in 1870 were 94, against 56 for the previous year.

This increase is on account of greater advantage, in the case of juvenile offenders, being now taken of the Reformatory by the magistrates than was generally taken some time ago. This may be partly the consequence of a Government circular on this subject issued after the Reformatory became a Government institution.

The Habitual Criminals Law passed in 1870, as above noticed in this Report, was not brought into operation within the year.

A detective branch of the constabulary has been constituted, and placed under the immediate superintendence of an officer selected for the purpose from the London detective police. The care of the register of habitual criminals has been entrusted to this officer. But this branch of the constabulary was not fully constituted until after the close of the year 1870.

Agricultural Statistics.

Of the total acreage of the Island (estimated at 2,720,000 acres), 523,806½ were assessed as under cultivation in 1870, against 492,246

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for the previous year. There is no doubt that the area of cultivation is annually increasing to a material extent; but this increase of 31,560 acres within the year cannot be relied on as accurate. It is doubtless in some measure due to improvement in the department of collection. On the whole, however, I believe that the above statement of the cultivated acreage in 1870 may be taken as a fair approximation to the truth.

Quit rent was paid on 1,308,580 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres of uncultivated land in the year 1870; the number of acres on which the same tax was paid for the preceding year being 1,138,205 $\frac{3}{4}$. The remainder of the uncultivated land on which quit rent has not been paid consists of unpatented land (mostly of little value) and abandoned properties.

The number of acres reported to be under each description of produce for the years 1869 and 1870 was as follows:—

	1869.	1870.
Sugar cane	47,440	47,699 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coffee	16,617	18,599 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ginger	150 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
Arrowroot	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	760	549 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cocoa	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cotton	3	6
Tobacco	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pimento	5,851 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,902
Ground provisions and garden vegetables	39,224 $\frac{1}{2}$	39,287 $\frac{1}{2}$
Guinea grass	110,705 $\frac{1}{2}$	119,450 $\frac{1}{2}$
Common pasture	222,790 $\frac{1}{2}$	225,193
Common pasture and pimento	48,501 $\frac{1}{2}$	65,896 $\frac{1}{2}$
	492,246 $\frac{1}{2}$	523,806 $\frac{1}{2}$

There is no doubt that for some years past the attention of sugar-planters here has been given rather to improvement of cultivation, than to increase of acreage under cane. And I believe that within the last few years the improvement in cultivation, manufacture, and general management, has been marked, much to the advantage of the planter. Nevertheless the acreage of cane cultivation has slightly increased. The loss by the small and unprofitable sugar estates thrown out of cultivation has been somewhat more than counter-balanced of late years by the increase of profitable cultivation. In the way of every sort of improvement there is still very much to do here; but there is certainly a manifest and increasing tendency in this direction.

The Collector-General guesses the consumption of sugar within the Island at about 6,000 hogsheads. About this quantity, therefore, may be added to the quantity exported in any year, in order to estimate the actual produce of the year. The average export of late years may be taken at nearly 32,000 hogsheads. This calculation would give about three-quarters of a hogshead as the average produce in sugar of an acre of canes in this Colony. The extreme smallness of this return is owing to the system of more or less permanent ratooning practised in several parishes, where on some estates a complete field of yearling plants is hardly ever to be seen; the plants that fail being

replaced yearly, plant by plant. Of course the produce is very small; but so also are the expenses and the risk; and it is the opinion of some that the financial result of this cheap system (which avoids the chance of the loss of a field of young plants from a drought) is good. However that may be, the practice greatly reduces the average produce of an acre of cane throughout the Colony.

The coffee cultivation of small settlers is certainly increasing, though probably not so much as 1,982½ acres in one year.

Pimento must be actually increasing, for it plants itself in land left to nature; and when it comes to some years of age, on the mere cleaning of the ground of bush, the best of all the natural grasses in the Island springs up spontaneously around the pimento trees; and the pasturage, which was worthless, becomes valuable. Thus the great fall in the price of this fine spice, has not made the pimento tree valueless.

A fair degree of reliance may be placed on the aggregate of the miscellaneous sorts of produce raised by the negro settler, as shown above. But no reliance can be placed on the particulars. Thus it is certain that the area in cocoa has not diminished in 1870. But the returns would seem to show the destruction of more than three-fourths of the trees. The explanation, I believe, is that 1870 was a very moist year, and 1869 a very dry year. In the one year many cocoa plants must have stood alone on the ground, which therefore could only be declared to be in cocoa cultivation. In the other year the ground around the permanent plants would be stuffed as full as it could hold with every sort of annual produce, in negro fashion, and might figure in the returns under any one-named sort, for the rate of property-tax is the same for all, cocoa included.

Legislative Council.

Two unofficial members were appointed to seats in the Council during this year. Mr. Robert Nunes, Custos of the parish of Trelawny; and Mr. Charles Royes, Custos of the parish of St. Ann's. The appointment of these two gentlemen makes the number of unofficial members six; the full complement under the present Constitution.

The official members at present are five. The full complement of official members is six.

Health.

The Island was healthy throughout the year. The superintending medical officer reports as follows:—

“The general health was, on the whole, very good; no form of epidemic disease having prevailed at all extensively. Cases of yellow fever were admitted into the public hospital throughout the year, but the disease was not of a malignant type.

“The subjects of this malady, with two or three exceptions only, were newly-arrived European sailors. The resident population was scarcely at all similarly affected. During the first six months of the year, vessels arriving from Santiago de Cuba were subjected to quarantine, on account of the reported prevalence of cholera at and

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in the neighbourhood of that city; and in the month of June a ship arriving from New York with small-pox on board, was detained for 14 days in the quarantine ground off Port Royal, before being admitted to pratique. No manifestation, however, of choleraic disease appeared among the persons who arrived from Cuba, nor did any extension of the small-pox occur."

General Remarks.

The most interesting event of the year was the laying of a telegraphic cable between Havana and Jamaica, whereby this Island is now in telegraphic communication with Cuba, the United States, and Europe. This cable was laid by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, to whom the powers of the International Ocean Telegraph Company, for the purpose, have been transferred. The cable is landed at Holland Bay, in the parish of St. Thomas, at the east end of the Island, whence there is a land line to Kingston. But for two unfortunate accidents in laying the lines, we should ere now have been also in telegraphic communication with the Isthmus of Panama by one line, and with Porto Rico and the chain of windward and leeward West India Islands by another.

Towards the end of the year, the services of a civil engineer, who has acquired experience by service on the vast irrigation works of India, were obtained to make the survey, plans, and estimates for an irrigation canal from the Rio Cobre through the Spanish Town and Old Harbour savannahs, which I believe form the most arid plain in the Island. If it be permissible to name so very small a thing in the same sentence with so very great a thing, I may describe the canal which is designed as being a Ganges Canal upon an exceedingly miniature scale. The head works will be within a narrow rocky gully from which this small river debouches upon the plain. It is believed that there will be more than water enough for 25,000 or 30,000 acres of land, under any sort of cultivation, including sugar-canes. But the description of this project will find a place in next year's Report.

The perfect tranquillity of the Colony was undisturbed. On three occasions it was considered advisable, by way of precaution, to secure the presence of parties of constabulary at the execution, by officers of the district courts, of writs for the dispossession of squatters. But no resistance was attempted, and in every instance the writs were quietly executed.

(Signed) J. P. GRANT.

31st July, 1871.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

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No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor CAIRNS to the
Officer Administering the Government of Jamaica.

(No. 39.)

SIR, Government House, Belize, March 27, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue
Book of this Colony for the year 1870.

Taxes and Duties.

1. These were the same in their nature and amount as the taxes and duties levied throughout 1869, with two exceptions—a remission in the one case, by the expiry of the Land and Property Tax Act on the last day of that year; and in the other case a reduction, by the import duty on unrated articles being lowered from 8 to 4 per cent., with effect from the 1st of August, 1869.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The gross revenue of the year was \$165,154 60c., or 33,030*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, being a decrease of \$17,994 50c., or 3,598*l.* 18*s.* on the previous year. The explanation is to be mainly sought in the abolition and reduction of the taxes and duties above referred to, and, in the case of the excise duty on spirits, in a change in the manner of dealing with spirits manufactured in the Colony, and brought for export to Belize. Until August, 1869, an excise duty was levied, and a drawback allowed upon the export, whereas such spirits may now be entered for export without paying duty.

3. The noticeable items of increase were import duties and immigration, the latter representing the recovery of arrears due to Government from employers of immigrant labour.

4. The gross expenditure of the year was \$131,100 50c., or 26,220*l.* 2*s.*, being less by \$20,917 70c., or 4,183*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, than that of the previous year. The chief items of decrease were the mail service (head of expenditure "Post Office Department"), military expenditure, special grants, light department, and the pay of the Immigration Agents. With regard to the decrease in the cost of the mail service it is to be explained in this way—a new contract for the conveyance of the European mails between New Orleans and Belize took effect from May last, at the rate of \$15,000 a year; the latest previous contract (for the service of the same line) having been at the rate of \$24,000 a year; and of this lower subsidy, one month's allowance was forfeited for non-fulfilment of terms. It may parenthetically be added, that the contractors have complained to me of being subjected by their engagement to a constantly recurring loss. The contract terminates in the present year (1871). The military expenditure, had it provided for the reduction of the debt to the War

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Department, ought properly to have been, at the least, as great as in 1869, as the payment then made represented a certain provision in partial adjustment of the Imperial claim, and left 6,945*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* still due (vide last year's Report). The finances would not, however, admit of any reduction of the debt being effected; and further liabilities were contracted in consequence of the frontier, north and north-west, being agitated by fresh alarms. The item of "*special grants*" represents sums of money *specialy granted* by the Legislative Assembly, and has necessarily varied in amount from year to year. In 1870 it included a refund of tonnage dues to a steamer, and a small vote to a medical practitioner for services rendered during a visitation of cholera. In the light department the saving was effected through the adoption of a more economical method of obtaining supplies of oil. The decrease upon the last item, that of immigration, arose from the fact that all payments on account of this head of service were discontinued when the indentures of the Chinese immigrants expired, as they did in June.

5. The items of increased expenditure were mainly (1) those connected with the disturbances on the frontier, such as providing barrack accommodation at Corozal, and (2) a considerable outlay by the Commissioners of Roads (beyond Belize) as compared with 1869.

6. It is creditable to many of the departments of the public service that there should be found in the comparative yearly statement of the Colonial expenditure such satisfactory evidence of a general desire to transact their business with a careful regard to the avoidance of waste, and I am glad of the opportunity of thus stating, that to my own knowledge this course has been taken without impairing their efficiency, or otherwise giving rise to inconvenience.

Public Debt.

7. The nature, the then present state, and the prospects of the several items of this debt were fully explained in my earlier Report, and one of them has already been referred to in the present paper in relation to the Colonial debt to the War Department incurred in and from 1867, and accruing at this time. Of the original debt of 19,800*l.* on account of the town of Belize improvement loan, the sum of 2,776*l.* 8*s.* was repaid in 1870, the amount of the loan for which the Colony was still liable at the close of the year standing at 13,040*l.* 16*s.* Of the original debt of 16,550*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* on account of the immigration loan, no part has yet been repaid. The debt to the General Post Office continued to be discharged, by arrangement, at the rate of 1,000*l.* a year, from the moiety of the subsidy contributed by the Imperial Government in aid of the conveyance of the mails between the mother-country and Belize, via the United States. The moiety during 1870, under the new contract, was as nearly as possible 1,600*l.* a year.

Legislation.

8. Several Acts of importance were passed in 1870. Among them an "Act to Amend and Consolidate the Law relating to Quarantine," an "Act for the better government of the Common Gaol,"

and an "Act for the better management of the Public Hospital, " Poor House, and Asylum."

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Works and Buildings.

9. Very marked progress was made with the erection of the masonry wall to enclose the gaol, so that I fully expect that this long-contemplated work will be completed within the next few months. A good temporary barrack to accommodate 50 men was built at Corozal, where a garrison was again placed. The barrack building has been so substantially constructed that it ought to last, with very trifling repairs, for at least ten years to come. Useful work was done in extending and improving the country roads, although much remains for execution in future years—the population being widely scattered, the country thinly peopled, and the river in the wood-cutting days of Honduras having answered every purpose of a highway for conducting the timber from the bush to the wharves. Beyond necessary repairs to sundry public buildings, no other works were undertaken, the state of the revenue not admitting of any heavy outlay.

Imports and Exports.

10. The value of the imports for the year was 184,337*l.* 12*s.*, being an increase of 33,148*l.* 16*s.* as compared with 1869, and of 6,653*l.* 18*s.* upon that of 1868. Of the total value, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 131,348*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.* as against 95,737*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* in 1869, and 105,099*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* in 1868. The value of the exports was 171,987*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.*, being less than in 1869 by 3,045*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*, and in 1868 by 31,671*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.* Of the total value, the exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 79,925*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*, as compared with 91,788*l.* 8*s.* in 1869, and 115,481*l.* 12*s.* in 1868. The excess of imports over exports was 52,989*l.* 7*s.* 11½*d.* The intercolonial trade of Honduras is insignificant; not so its trade with the adjoining Republics, including Mexico and the United States, the imports from those countries being valued at 52,955*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, of which the United States contributed by far the largest share, the figures being 45,586*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.* In 1869 they were 46,257*l.* 9*s.* 8½*d.*, in 1868, 62,246*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The exports to the same countries amounted in value to 87,358*l.* 1*s.*, and to France to 4,622*l.* 8*s.*, the foreign export trade showing a balance of 39,025*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* over imports in the Colony's favour, and being of greater value by 4,113*l.* 9*s.* than in 1869, although less by 819*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* than in 1868. The order of custom was (1) Spanish Honduras for exports valued at 38,753*l.* 10*s.*; (2) the United States, 32,169*l.* 8*s.*, against 17,166*l.* 8*s.* in 1869, and 20,085*l.* 12*s.* in 1868; (3) Guatemala, 7,666*l.* 3*s.*; (4) Mexico, 4,847*l.*; (5) France, 4,622*l.* 8*s.*, and (6) Nicaragua, 3,922*l.* Of the articles of export *bonâ fide* the produce of the Colony, sugar rose to 1,371 tons, from 752 tons in 1869, and 762 tons in 1868; rum to 12,347 gallons, from 4,766 and 3,300 in each of the earlier years; and cedar wood to 91,934 feet, from 37,869 and 88,958; mahogany fell to 1,345,656 feet, from 3,498,391 in 1869 and 3,006,619 feet in 1868; logwood was exported to the quantity of 9,166 tons, being

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about 100 tons less than in 1868, but over 1,300 tons in excess of the shipment of 1869, and commanding a better price; molasses taken by the United States fell from 10,417½ gallons in 1869 and 9,664 gallons in 1868 to 2,440 gallons. The export of cocoa-nuts amounted to 180,263, as compared with 170,078 in 1869, and 306,622 in the previous year. Of fustic but 34 tons were exported, against 66 tons in 1869 and 145 tons in 1868. In lieu of the blank return for those years, rosewood formed an item of export to the extent of 142 tons. Finally, 186 turtle were shipped at the quays, or above the usual number. Summing up the money value of the import and export trade during 1870, the imports specially rated (cattle, cigars, cocoa, coffee, horses and mules, lumber, malt liquor and cider, spirits and cordials, sugar, tea, tobacco, and wines) amounted to 14,090*l.*, and the unrated articles, upon which an ad valorem duty is paid, to 170,247*l.* 12*s.*; and the exports to 69,977*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.* as the value of the Colonial produce; and 102,010*l.* 0*s.* 11½*d.* as that of the imports transshipped as exports, whether first imported from Europe and the United States, and subsequently exported to the Central Republics under the drawback system, or first imported from the latter countries and subsequently exported under the same system to the former. Comparing the value of this branch of the trade with its value in 1869 and 1868, it exhibits an increase of 1,345*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.* upon the figures of 1869 (100,664*l.* 15*s.* 11½*d.*), but it is still far short of the value returned for 1868 (134,465*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*). Of the value of the *transit trade*, as applying to merchandise *bonâ fide* in transit *viâ* Belize to some other mart, no account can be taken in the Colony. A duty of 50 cents or 2*s.* is levied on every transit package, but the nature of the contents of any such package need in no case be known.

Shipping.

11. The return under this head for 1870 shows the amount of tonnage entered to have been slightly in excess of that of 1869, but greatly below the figures for 1868, and the amount cleared to have fallen short of both the previous years.

		Entered.	Cleared.
1870	- - - -	28,102 tons.	26,624 tons.
1869	- - - -	27,792 "	30,324 "
1868	- - - -	31,424 "	30,911 "

Grants of Land.

12. There were 166 acres of Crown land sold in 1870 as compared with 42 in 1869. The upset price is at present 10*s.* per acre, but private owners are sometimes ready to accept 5*s.* for country or ordinary lots. No demand exists for this description of property, nor do I see how it is likely to arise, unless the population should be largely increased by some tide of immigration naturally setting in.

Gaols.

13. The number of prisoners confined in the common gaol in Belize at Michaelmas, 1870, was 46, of whom two were whites (males) and

44 coloured (males and females), in the proportion of 41 to 3. The total number committed to this gaol during the whole year was 104, of whom seven were whites (males, and chiefly sailors). The largest number in confinement at any one time was 50. The punishments for offences within the gaol were solitary confinement (36), whipping (7), and putting in irons (3), all being inflicted on male prisoners. No cases of serious illness occurred, and there were no deaths. Strictly penal as distinguished from remunerative labour was not enforced for two reasons: the one, that it was held to be of the first importance to make rapid progress with the construction of the gaol wall by means of the labour of the prisoners; and the other, that it was, as it remains, essential to the health of such a town as Belize that its roads and streets should be constantly repaired, and its drains be deepened and cleansed. To do these things by means of hired labour would involve an amount of expenditure which the Colonial finances will not bear. The returns for the district prisons at Corozal and Orange Walk in the north, and Allpines in the south, serve to show that at the first-named place there were 11 prisoners in confinement at Michaelmas, and that 24, of whom one female, was the greatest number in prison on any one day. At Orange Walk the figures were 2 and 9, and at Allpines 6 and 7. Prisoners committed for over three months are as a general rule sent to Belize. There were no deaths in the district prisons.

14. Of the graver offences committed in the Colony during the year, a few cases of cutting and wounding may be noticed. It is generally the so-called Spanish or Indian half-breed who resorts to this method of revenge; or else, in the passionate moment of a quarrel, makes as free a use of his macheat (a kind of cutlass) as the Malay man of his kris. Other serious crimes were few; most of the committals having been for larceny or breach of contract.

15. In proportion to their numbers, the Chinese immigrants, of whom not more than 200 remain in British Honduras at this time, were the greatest offenders under both of these heads; but the shipment which arrived some years ago was not, it must be confessed, a fair representation of the agricultural class of Chinese, consisting as it did of seaport loiterers, and vagabonds from Amoy.

Charitable Institutions.

16. The number of cases under treatment in the public hospital, Belize, at the beginning of 1870, was 6, at the end it was 6. The admissions during the year were 207, of which 176 were males and 31 females. Of the patients discharged, 174 were cured, and 14 relieved: 25 deaths occurred. There was but one case of yellow fever treated in the hospital (in January) during the year, and no death from that cause. Of the eight cases of phthisis treated, seven proved fatal; but these were in the last stage when they came in. The negroes, here as elsewhere, are peculiarly liable to this disease.

17. The hospital building is as unsightly as possible, being old and weather-beaten (it is a wooden structure) in all its parts. On the other hand it is well placed, and nothing could be cleaner or more airy than its wards.

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18. The number of admissions to the Lunatic Asylum in 1870 was 5, all of them males. One death occurred, and 4 patients were discharged. There remained in the asylum when the year closed 10 persons of unsound mind—6 being males and 4 females. The number at the same period of 1869 was 10.

19. The poorhouse contained 13 old or infirm persons on the last day of 1870 as compared with 17 in 1869. There were 5 admissions and 5 deaths during the year, three of the deaths occurring among the new admissions; three of the paupers were removed to the public hospital for medical treatment, and one was discharged.

20. Although every attempt is made to provide for the comfort of both lunatics and paupers, the buildings in which they are housed are in the last degree miserable. My Report for 1869 referred to them as a standing reproach to the Colony, and I am therefore glad to be able on this next occasion to announce that there is every prospect of the reproach being removed, not, indeed, by any act of the Colony, for there was no possibility of providing sufficient funds, but by the consideration of the Secretary of State for War, in placing the islet and buildings of Fort George at my disposal, and thus enabling me to make what I trust may prove excellent arrangements at a very trifling cost.

Conclusion.

21. The Legislative Assembly having been dissolved in November, 1869, when within a few days of the completion of its constitutional term of existence, four years, the general election was held in the following month, and the new House met in January, as required by the local Act.

22. Two measures of importance which were brought forward by the elected members, but which for different reasons have not yet become law, occupied the attention of the House during the first session, and one of them during the subsequent sessions of the year. These were a Church Disendowment Bill, and a Bill to abrogate the existing form of Constitution, and to substitute therefor what is known as the Crown Colony system of government. It is probable that the objects contemplated by these measures will be attained within the next few months—a very general consensus of opinion having declared itself in their favour.

23. Frontier disturbances were again threatened, and in consequence of the arrival at Orange Walk and Corozal of an armed body of Ycaiché Indians, the troops which had been withdrawn from the latter town in the previous month were hurried up in April to protect the traders and planters of the Northern District from further molestation.

24. Confidence was soon restored, the Indians having remained in the town for a few hours only, and having recrossed the Hondo without committing any acts of violence of a serious nature.

25. In view, however, of the necessity for assured tranquillity in the district, in order to enable it to proceed with the development of its capacity for growing sugar, it was determined that for the present, at least, two outpost garrisons should be re-established, one at Orange Walk and the other at Corozal. A second company of troops of the

1st West India Regiment, which had been temporarily sent to Honduras, was retained, barracks were built, while concurrently with these expensive but necessary precautions being taken, the Frontier Police Force Act was allowed to expire.

26. The two questions must inevitably be raised, and, if possible, answered before long,—how far the cost of this kind of protection can be made to bear a fair proportion to the means of the Colony to support it, and how far a well-manned and well-disciplined police force, which presumably would be a less expensive force, could be entrusted with the defence of the frontier, would be likely to attract to itself the prestige which is possessed by a company of soldiers, would, in short, have the confidence of the inhabitants, and be respected and dreaded by the Indian tribes.

27. For the first year of the employment of the second company of troops, the Imperial Government undertook to defray the normal military charges,—the cost of such barrack accommodation as might be required for the out-station detachments, as well as of movements within the Colony, not being included in this relief. After the first year, ending 25th May, 1871, and experimentally for two more years, the second company will be furnished, on the further condition of an annual contribution by the Colony of 40*l.* for every officer and soldier of that company stationed at Honduras.

28. A portion of St. George's Kaye, the old seat of Government, was transferred to the War Department during 1870, to be used as a military sanitarium, and English Kaye was given over to the Civil authorities in exchange.

29. St. George's Kaye, at a distance of about 9 miles from Belize, is one of the healthiest spots within the boundaries of this Colony. Formerly, and before the mainland was adopted as the site of the chief town of Honduras, it was a place of some importance; but of late years it is seldom visited except during the hot weather, when families and invalids resort to it for bathing.

30. The indentures of the Chinese immigrants terminated during 1870, when all expenditure on account of their protection ceased. I have elsewhere referred to them in this Report, and will here only state my belief that, in regard to its labour supply, the hope of the Colony ought chiefly to rest upon that natural and spontaneous immigration which should gradually, but constantly, bring into this more settled and law-governed territory the Yucatecans and other neighbouring people, whose lives and property are exposed to such risks and hardships in their own imperfectly-civilized country on our border.

31. This kind of labour costs nothing to import, nothing to supervise, and nothing to protect beyond the general means of protection supplied to all residents of whatever race; and there is none of that restlessness about it which is noticeable in the case of the Chinese,—the Yucateco bringing his family and making himself in every sense of the word at home.

32. The public health was excellent throughout the year, except on some parts of the Hondo, which are never healthy. There can be no doubt, I think, of the superior healthiness of the seaport towns of the Colony over any inhabited district of the interior. The all but constant and often very powerful breeze does for Belize what no

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possible system of drainage could effect, where the land is a dead level, and little better than a swamp. Most of the town-streets are wide and straight, and although there is much that is faulty, and in the present irreparable, about the construction of the canals and drains, and more that is careless or unthinking in the habits of the people—creoles as well as negroes—Belize is probably as clean a capital as any to be found under similarly difficult conditions of drainage in the tropical west. It has a new and bright appearance from the sea, the wooden houses being generally painted or washed in some light colour; and while without the pretensions to street architecture possessed by Kingston (Jamaica), there is none of that foetid squalor which gives such an uninviting unwholesome look to the sea approaches of that greatly larger and wealthier town.

33. An inventory of the contents, not being private property, of the Government House, Belize, is attached to the Blue Book, as well as a copy of a Report by the Surveyor of Public Works upon the state of the building itself. At the present time it would be impossible to undertake any costly or elaborate repairs.

Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B. I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. W. CAIRNS.

TURKS
AND CAICOS
ISLANDS.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President CAMPBELL to Governor Sir J. P. GRANT, K.C.B.

(No. 56.) Government House, Grand Turk,
SIR, September 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the Blue Book returns of this Colony for the year 1870, together with my Report thereon, also copies of letters from the Colonial Secretary and auditor explanatory of the delay that has taken place in preparing these returns.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL,
Governor Sir J. P. Grant, K.C.B., President.
&c. &c. &c.

COLONIAL SECRETARY to President CAMPBELL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grand Turk,
SIR, August 12, 1871.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit, in duplicate, the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1870.

Although completed this year at an earlier date than they have

been for some time past, still I regret I have not had it in my power to lay these returns before your Honour until now.

From the enclosed letter from the auditor—on whom devolves the compilation of the greater bulk of the Blue Book returns—your Honour will perceive “it was not until October, 1870, that the office of auditor was re-created, and that consequently three-quarters of the year had expired without any of the work appertaining to the office having been performed;” hence the principal delay.

The suggestions contained in the Circular Despatch, dated Downing Street, 7th March, 1871, a copy of which I had the honour to receive from you in May last, and which I duly forwarded to the auditor for his information, are now being acted on; I have therefore every reason to believe that for the future there will be much less delay in the preparation and transmission of these returns than has hitherto been the case.

President Campbell,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEXANDER C. LOWE,
Colonial Secretary.

TURKS
AND CAICOS
ISLANDS.

May 13, 1871.

SIR,

Auditor's Office, Grand Turk, May 13, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this day's date, forwarding to me for perusal (under instructions from his Honour the President) a Circular Despatch, dated Downing Street, March 7th, 1871, having reference to the delay generally attending the transmission of the Blue Book returns, and requesting from me, for the information of his Honour the President, any observations I may desire to offer in explanation of the delay in the transmission to your office of the returns from my department for the year 1870.

In reply, I beg leave to remind his Honour that I was not appointed auditor until the 1st October, 1870, up to which date the office had remained unfilled, and consequently three-quarters of the year had expired without any of the work appertaining to the office having been performed. Since my assumption of the duties of the office, I have laboured diligently to get the work up, and have, moreover, employed a person to assist me.

I am happy to be able to state, for the information of his Honour, that the returns from this Department are in a fair state of progress, and will soon be completed.

Having overcome the difficulties of the first year, I have no doubt to be able in future to have the returns ready within the time prescribed by regulation.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. C. CRISSON, Auditor.

Hon. Alexander C. Lowe,
Colonial Secretary.

(Extract.)

REPORT.

Duties, Taxes, Fees.

The revenue of this Colony is derived from the following duties, taxes, and fees :—

1. Import duties.
2. An export duty of one halfpenny for every bushel of salt exported.
3. An ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. on all wood exported from the Colony.
4. Lighthouse dues of 4*d.* per ton., payable by all vessels entering at any of the ports of this Colony.
5. Auction dues of 2 per cent. on all property sold by public auction.
6. For every licence to retail spirituous liquors, 25*l.* per annum, with a fee of 5*l.* additional paid to the Colonial Secretary, who transfers the same to the Treasury.
7. For every licence to vend wines or other fermented liquors, 14*l.* 10*s.* per annum.
8. For every licence to keep ice refreshment houses, 20*l.*
9. For every pilot licence, 1*l.*
10. A dog tax, 1 dollar and 1 dollar and a half per annum.
11. For every licence to hawk goods, 2*l.* 10*s.*
12. For every licence to deal in old metals, 1*l.*
13. A tax of 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. on the gross sales of all vessels not registered as belonging to these Islands, but sold within the same.
14. Wrecking licences, according to the tonnage of the vessels so employed, ranging from 10*s.* to 2*l.*
15. Various fees of office paid into the general revenue, and collected by the Colonial Secretary and Registrar of Deeds, by the Judge of the Supreme Court and Ordinary, by the police and assistant police magistrates, by the Colonial Surveyor. Fines from the Supreme Court and fines from the police court, pew rents, postage, and Post Office money order commissions.

Finance of 1870.

The financial results of the year 1870 show a slight falling off in the general revenue as compared with 1869. The total receipts for 1870, including a sum of 391*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* received from the Crown chest in aid of the general revenue, and a sum of 2,000*l.* borrowed on debentures, amounted to 9,504*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, whilst the expenditure was 9,725*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, thus leaving a deficit of 221*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*; the increased export duty levied on salt last year, mainly saving this Colony from being further involved in debt, which at present amounts to 2,700*l.*, borrowed at 8 per cent., to pay the principal and interest of which an increase on the import duties has been resorted to. The following Tables show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the year 1870, in comparison with that of last year, 1869.

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For the year 1870 :—

	£	s.	d.
Imports - - - - -	3,874	17	3
Exports - - - - -	1,707	11	7
Other sources of revenue - - - - -	1,530	3	11

	£7,112	12	9
Receipts from Crown Chest in aid - - - - -	391	11	9
Borrowed on Debentures - - - - -	2,000	0	0

Total Receipts - - - - -	£9,504	4	6
Expenditure for 1870 - - - - -	9,725	18	8

Deficit - - - - -	£	221	14	2
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For the year 1869 :—

	£	s.	d.
Imports - - - - -	3,736	6	0
Exports - - - - -	1,379	10	4
Other sources of revenue - - - - -	2,052	2	8

	£7,167	19	0
Receipts from Crown Chest in aid - - - - -	461	12	9
Borrowed from Public Bank - - - - -	700	0	0

	£8,329	11	9
Balance from 1868 - - - - -	662	18	6

Total Receipts - - - - -	£8,992	10	3
Expenditure for 1869 - - - - -	9,743	19	11

Deficit - - - - -	£	751	9	8
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Quantity and Value of Salt Exported for 1870.

The following Table shows the amount and value of salt exported in 1870 from the various salt-producing islands forming this Government :—

	Bushels.
Grand Turk - - - - -	353,336
Salt Cay - - - - -	286,408
Cockburn Harbour - - - - -	206,322

Total bushels for 1870 - - - 846,066

the declared value of which amounted to 15,134*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, whilst for the year 1869 the amount of salt exported was as follows :—

	Bushels.
Grand Turk - - - - -	629,068
Salt Cay - - - - -	377,756
Cockburn Harbour - - - - -	304,520

Total bushels for 1869 - - - 1,311,344

the declared value of which amounted, to 26,063*l.* 1*s.*, thus showing how unfavourable in a financial point of view the year 1870 has been

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as regards the value of our sole staple, as compared with the year 1869.

4. The following Tables show the comparative value of the imports from and exports to these Islands during the years 1869 and 1870, giving also the names of the various places with which this Colony has commercial dealings.

IMPORTS FROM

	1869.			1870.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom -	1,297	7	10	3,396	10	5	2,099	2	7	..	..	..
British North America -	481	7	3	1,160	4	7	678	17	4	..	..	..
British West Indies -	2,975	8	0	2,331	17	0	..	..	..	625	11	0
Foreign West Indies -	8,907	6	2	15,591	18	0	6,684	11	10	..	..	..
United States -	21,209	12	3	12,853	11	4	..	..	..	8,356	0	11
Canary Islands and Madeira -	20	0	0	11	8	0	..	..	..	8	12	0
	£ 34,873	1	6	35,345	9	4	9,462	11	9	8,990	3	11

EXPORTS TO

	1869.			1870.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom -	36	19	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	19	6
British North America -	1,150	5	8	885	17	9	..	..	..	264	7	11
British West Indies -	2,581	14	3	797	10	4	..	..	..	1,784	3	11
Foreign West Indies -	5,526	7	5	3,123	0	10	..	..	..	2,403	6	7
United States -	26,072	11	8	18,971	17	7	..	..	..	12,100	14	1
Central America -	140	11	8	76	8	2	..	..	..	64	3	6
	£ 35,508	10	2	18,854	14	8	..	..	..	16,653	15	6

Crown Fund.

5. This fund is chiefly formed by a 10 per cent. ad valorem duty on salt exported from these Islands, paid by the pond proprietor in lieu of rent for salt pond property, from which source alone, during the year 1870, the amount collected was 1,572*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, against 2,261*l.* 11*s.* collected in 1869, at the end of which year the balance then remaining, amounting to the sum of 1,523*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, was carried over to the credit of 1870, thereby increasing the amount for that year to 3,096*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, to which may be added 147*l.* 13*s.* for sales and rent of Crown lands, &c., &c., thereby bringing up the total amount of the Crown Fund collected from all sources during the year 1870, to the sum of 3,244*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

Expenditure of Crown Fund.

6. The expenditure of this fund, which has been permitted by Her Majesty's Government to be devoted to works of public utility for the benefit of this Colony, was, during the year 1870, as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Tank at Public Schools - - - - -	60	17	0
Repairs to buildings - - - - -	592	19	4
Roads, streets, and bridges - - - - -	146	4	0
Tanks and wells - - - - -	316	1	4
Salaries and allowances - - - - -	544	1	3
Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,251	1	6
Total - - - - -	£2,911	4	5

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leaving a balance of 332*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, which was carried over to the credit of the Crown Fund at the commencement of the year 1871.

Debt.

7. The debt of this Colony amounts to the sum of 2,700*l.*, of which 700*l.* was borrowed from the public bank at 8 per cent. in 1869, and 2,000*l.* borrowed on debentures in 1870, also at 8 per cent., and taken up by various residents in this Colony. This debt was necessitated by financial embarrassments in which this Colony has been, and still is placed, owing to our sole staple being no longer in demand in the United States, consequent on the heavy protective import duty in force in that country.

Legislation.

8. Nineteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in the year 1870, eighteen of which received the Royal assent. Twelve Proclamations were also issued, but as neither the Ordinances nor Proclamations require any special comment, it is superfluous to enumerate them.

Consuls.

9. The only changes during 1870 in the Consular Department at these Islands were the arrival here, in December last, of Monsieur Heraux, Consul for the Haytien Republic, and the absence on leave of Mr. Stewart, the United States' Consul, who has since resigned his appointment, owing to his being transferred to a consular appointment in Europe.

Education.

10. Nothing can be more unsatisfactory than the attendance of pupils at the schools during 1870; this is explained by the poverty of the inhabitants residing at Grand Turk and Salt Cay, caused by the absence of trade, and at the Caicos by the severe drought which reduced the inhabitants to a state of semi-starvation. I issued an order that all fees paid by the parents of pupils should be remitted, hoping thereby to encourage the attendance of the children, but all to no purpose, as at the three salt-producing islands, the poverty was so universal that many of the children were hardly decently clad, and at the out islands their parents employed them in collecting shell-fish, herbs, or anything with which to stay the pangs of hunger, food for the body, under such circumstances, being of far greater importance

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than food for the mind. The outlay of 700*l.* per annum for education seems excessive considering the size of the Colony; but as it is broken up into so many different islands the expenditure of so large a sum is, under the present system, almost unavoidable.

Crime.

11. The conduct of the people generally in this Colony is far better than one would find in an English community of the same number. The only time when they seem completely demoralized and incapable of restraint is on a wreck taking place, but, I believe, a few severe examples made on those individuals who act, in the slightest respect, contrary to the orders of the wreck-master would tend materially to check the existing evil. The following Table shows the number of summary convictions before the Police Magistrate, petty debt cases, and convictions in the Supreme Court, for 1870, as compared with the year 1869:—

Year.	Summary Convictions.	Petty Debt, Cases.	Supreme Court.
1869	243	81	5
1870	227	74	7

The following is a return of the average weekly number of prisoners in gaol and their cost of maintenance during the year 1870:—

No.	Cost per head.	Total Cost of each.	Total Cost of whole.
15	Food £9 2s. (being 3s. 6 <i>d.</i> per week). Clothing, 15s.	£9 17s.	£147 15s.

Poor-house and Hospital.

12. Thirty-six persons obtained relief at the Poor-house and Hospital during the year 1870, of whom twelve died, and six took their discharge, leaving eighteen inmates at the commencement of 1871. The expenditure for the year 1870 for the Poor-house and Hospital amounted to 491*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, out-door relief 25*l.* 8*s.* Consumption and rheumatism are the prevailing complaints. A few cases of leprosy have lately made their appearance at Salt Cay, for the cure of which, as yet, no specific seems to have been discovered, unless it be the bark of the “cundurango” tree, which grows in Ecuador, and regarding the virtues of which, experiments are now being made in the United States.

Population.

13. The number of inhabitants in this Colony, according to the census taken this year (1871), is 4,723. In 1861 the population was 4,372, and in 1850 it amounted to 2,350, from which figures it will

be seen that of late years the increase of the population has not been so rapid as between the years 1850 and 1861. There is no doubt but that the want and distress lately prevalent here has been the cause of this decrease and has led to emigration.

General Remarks.

14. My Report, as to the state of this Colony for the year 1870 must be, I fear, even more unfavourable than that which I wrote as to its condition for the year 1869. The amount of salt sold and the prices realized for the same both show a considerable falling off for the year 1870 as compared with 1869. I attribute the present depressed state of the finances to several causes:—

1st. The existing protective import duty on salt in the United States, which country is the chief consumer of our sole staple.

2ndly. The late European war, which has caused a considerable amount of tonnage having been diverted to Europe, as provision freights thereto would be more profitable than salt cargoes from this Colony.

3rd. The experimental reduction of the export duty on salt, in the year 1869, at the earnest request and petition of certain residents in this Colony, without the substitution of any other tax in lieu thereof. (This present rate of export duty having been in force during the first four years' existence of this Government, and the five years previous to 1869, during which periods more salt was sold than when such duty was reduced by one-half, thereby showing that the export duty in no way affects the demand for our staple.)

4th. The hurricane, in the year 1866, which swept over these Islands, inflicting most severe damage to every sort of property, and almost ruining the salt pond proprietors.

5th. The rising into existence of new salt-producing localities, which has tended, in a great measure, to lower the price of our salt, and divert the trade from these Islands.

6th. Regular steam communication between St. Domingo and the United States, thereby causing a falling off in our export trade to St. Domingo of dry goods and liquors; which, during the years 1863, '64, '65, '66, amounted to over 80,000*l*. All these circumstances combined have so tended to depress the financial condition of the Colony that bankruptcy seems imminent, and until the trade revives, or unless the expenses of this Government be still further reduced, my yearly Reports as to its condition cannot be regarded in any other light than most unfavourable. In addition to the stagnation in our trade, this Colony, in 1870, was visited with unusual drought, which destroyed the crops at the Caicos, the inhabitants of which place were at one time in a complete state of starvation, necessitating my sending them supplies of rice and corn meal. At Grand Turk even, for a short period, there was not a barrel of either flour or corn meal to be procured, and many of the inhabitants had to resort to the prickly pear buds and fish (the latter not always procurable) in order to preserve life. I may mention that the Government officers fared but little better during such period, owing to the absence of every sort of provision in the stores, the merchants being prevented from importing,

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as they were unable to collect the amounts owing them, there being no money in the Colony, in consequence of our sole staple being no longer in demand in the American market. I regret I am unable to report much improvement in the state of affairs since that period.

15. As regards taxation in this Colony, which averages about 19s. 7½d. per head, I cannot but think that the present system is capable of improvement, though I doubt the advisability of, at present, effecting any radical change. We have here a group of many islands, three of which are solely salt producing, and being some distance from each other, require separate ports of entry at each, with the usual staff of official residents. The other islands that do not produce salt, form a refuge for wreckers, idlers, and squatters on private and Government lands, the productiveness of which is yearly being diminished by their lacking the knowledge necessary to pursue agriculture in a methodical and remunerative manner. There is no doubt but that corn and ground provisions might be raised at the lower Caicos amply sufficient, in ordinary seasons, to supply the markets of the three salt-producing islands, but whether it be owing to the ignorance or apathy of the agriculturists (if I dare venture to distinguish them by that name), they seem to think they have done all that be requisite, if they succeed in procuring provisions enough for the support of themselves and families for a portion of the year, and they are only driven to exert themselves and bring up produce to our markets when they require a few dollars to buy clothes or indulge themselves in the luxuries of spirits and tobacco. Over these poor folks but little supervision can be exercised, and there is no doubt these out-islands are at present a source of weakness to this Government. Attempts have, at various times, been made, by my predecessors in office, to induce these people to locate themselves at one spot and form an agricultural community, but the chances of wrecking, and the facilities which they have of settling wherever they please, free from paying rent, free, moreover, from restraint or supervision of any sort, prove far too attractive for any attempt to be successful to induce them to devote themselves steadily to rearing stock and ground provisions—the consequence is, the three salt producing islands of the Colony are almost entirely dependent upon foreign importation for the necessaries of life, which I regret to say are at present somewhat heavily taxed.

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No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor SCOTT to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 147.)

Government House, Georgetown, October 14, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Colony
for the past year, 1870, together with my Report thereon.

Revenue and Expenditure.

It is gratifying to be able to report that, although no augmentation has been made in the imposts from which the revenue of the Colony is derived, the amount collected exhibits a large increase over that of any previous year. The total revenue of the past year, to which the Report refers, reached the sum of 354,130*l.*, exhibiting an increase of 42,753*l.* over the revenue of the previous year, and an increase of 63,249*l.*, if compared with the revenue collected in 1868. By a reference to the comparative yearly statement of the revenue, it will be seen that of this increase 35,639*l.* is due to the Custom dues, and 6,573*l.* to retail spirit licences. The other items of revenue show only a slight variation from the sums collected under them in the year 1869.

The expenditure of the past year amounted to a sum of 325,855*l.*, being 28,275*l.* less than the revenue, thus leaving a large balance on hand at the close of the year.

Commerce.

Imports.—The value of the imports is given at 1,897,098*l.*, showing an increased value of 324,822*l.* compared with the importation of 1869. Of this increase 237,960*l.* is due to an augmentation in the imports from the United Kingdom; 89,843*l.* in the imports from other Colonies, and 24,711*l.*, in those from foreign States. The value of the imports from the United States is less by a sum of 27,693*l.* than in the previous year, 1869.

Exports.—The exports also exhibit an increase of 219,408*l.*, their aggregate value being 2,383,422*l.* against 2,164,014*l.* of the former year. As stated in a former Report, the industry of the Colony is chiefly confined to the production of sugar, rum, and molasses, the sugar alone forming four-fifths of the value of the entire exports; and from an inspection of the following Table, which exhibits a summary of the exports, compared with those of 1869, it will be observed that the increase in the value of the exports is entirely due to the greater quantity of sugar and rum manufactured; all the other

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articles of export, with the exception of a trifling increase under the head of cocoanuts, showing a falling off:—

	1869.	1870.	Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£
Sugar - - - - -	1,545,995	1,803,916	257,921 increase.
Rum - - - - -	298,537	312,443	13,906 increase.
Molasses - - - - -	141,012	121,783	19,229 decrease.
Timber - - - - -	15,014	8,325	6,689 decrease.
Shingles - - - - -	7,994	5,733	2,261 decrease.
Charcoal - - - - -	3,993	2,923	1,070 decrease.
Cotton - - - - -	5,575	1,299	4,276 decrease.
Cocoanuts - - - - -	2,204	2,488	284 increase.
	2,020,324	2,258,910	238,586 increase.
Exports of minor local products, &c. - - - - -	143,690	124,512	19,178 decrease.
Total exports - - - - -	£2,164,014	2,383,422	219,408 increase.

The following tabular statement shows the quantities exported, and the increase or decrease compared with the previous year:—

	1869.	1870.	Increase or Decrease.
Sugar (hogsheads)- - -	76,112	94,945	18,833 increase.
Rum (puncheons) - - -	21,324	27,169	5,845 increase.
Molasses (puncheons) - -	25,639	17,606	8,033 decrease.

They were distributed as follows:—

SUGAR.

	£
To the United Kingdom, of the value of - - -	1,024,768
„ the United States - - -	697,180
„ Foreign States - - -	5,082
„ Colonies - - -	76,886

RUM.

	£
To the United Kingdom, of the value of - - -	281,267
„ the United States - - -	—
„ Foreign States - - -	6,463
„ Colonies - - -	24,713

MOLASSES.

	£
To the United Kingdom, of the value of - - -	45,180
„ the United States - - -	36,489
„ Foreign States - - -	15,328
„ Colonies - - -	24,785

Compared with the year 1869 there has been a large increase in the value of the exports to the United Kingdom. Sugar exhibits an increase of 211.142%, rum 19.635%, and molasses 34.813%. The

exports to the United States, the only other market of note, also show an increase in sugar to the value of 13,035*l.*; but, on the other hand, there is a diminution to the value of 51,747*l.* in the export of molasses.

Shipping.—The return of the number and tonnage of vessels which have entered and cleared during the year does not differ materially from that of 1869. The total number of ships entered was 974, representing a tonnage of 212,631 against 929, equal to tonnage of 198,306 in 1869.

Public Debt.

The public debt, arising from loans borrowed under various Ordinances, amounted to a sum of 582,423*l.* at the close of the year 1870. Of this debt the revenues of the Colony have to provide for the ultimate discharge, by means of sinking funds, of a sum of 257,333*l.*, the balance of 325,090*l.* being composed of sums borrowed on account of immigration, the corporation of Georgetown, &c., the interest and capital of which are payable by the respective parties, the Government having only guaranteed these loans.

During the past year 70,000*l.* of the loan raised under Ordinance No. 8 of 1850, and under the guarantee of the Imperial Government, was paid off, leaving only a sum of 180,000*l.* outstanding, the whole of which will be discharged in the year 1874. A sum of 17,000*l.* was raised under Ordinance No. 9 of 1869, for the construction of public works.

The amount due by planters for advances made on account of immigration is less by a sum of 13,400*l.* than at the close of 1869.

The outstanding liabilities on account of the loans made to the Corporation of Georgetown have also been reduced by a sum of 1,917*l.*

The result of these changes is a reduction in the aggregate debt during the last year of a sum of 67,516*l.* The aggregate amount on the 31st of December last being 582,423*l.* against 649,939*l.* at the close of the previous year.

Immigration.

The extension now taking place in the cultivation of the sugar-cane gives rise to an increasing demand for immigrants. In the season ending the 30th of June, 1870, indents were made by the planters for 5,545 Indian immigrants and 1,870 Chinese; and I may add that, for the season ending in June of the present year, indents were made for no less than 8,235 Indian immigrants and 1,390 Chinese. Owing to the misunderstanding with the Chinese Government, no immigrants are now to be obtained from China, and it cannot be expected that, with every possible exertion made in India, so large a number as that for which the planters have applied could be obtained in any one year. This large demand for labour may, however, be accepted as a satisfactory indication of the progress being made in the production of the one great staple export, upon the prosperity of which the general welfare of the Colony may be said almost wholly to depend.

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The number of immigrants brought from India during the season ending June 30th of the past year was unusually large, being equal to 5,673 statute adults, and exceeding by 1,717 the number obtained in the previous year. The total cost of the introduction of these immigrants was 102,563*l.*, being a mere fraction short of 20*l.* per caput.

Owing to the large number of immigrants who have now completed their industrial residence of ten years, it may be expected that each year a vessel will be required to provide passages for return immigrants, although it is estimated that only about 20 per cent. of the number introduced avail themselves of this right. The ship 'Ganges' left in September with return immigrants on board equal to 373 statute adults. It is estimated that these people had money and ornaments in their possession of the value of 2,420*l.*, and remittances were made to India on their account equal to a sum of 9,870*l.*

At the close of the year the number of immigrants residing on the sugar estates was 49,443, against 44,825 at the close of the previous year. These consisted of 24,909 male, and 9,429 female Indian immigrants; and 4,778 male, and 536 female Chinese immigrants, all under indenture. Those not under indenture were 5,098 male, and 3,359 female Indian immigrants; and 944 male, and 390 female Chinese immigrants.

During the year the following immigrants re-indentured:—Indians entitled to return passages, 1,937; not entitled, 1,895; and Chinese, 1,387; making a total of 5,219. The bounties paid on these re-indentures amounted to the large sum of 54,114*l.*

The average rate of mortality amongst the immigrants residing on the estates was slightly in excess of that of 1869, being during the past year 3·06 per cent., and in the previous year 2·11 per cent. Considering that the rate of mortality is almost necessarily higher amongst those newly arrived in the Colony, and that this swells somewhat the general, or what may be termed the ordinary death-rate, the mortality amongst the immigrants cannot, I would submit, be regarded as unfavourable. The average rate of mortality calculated on the entire population of the Colony during the same period is given by the Registrar-General at 2·90 per cent. I will only add, that great exertions are now being made to improve the sanitary condition of the people living on the estates by the building of new and the enlargement of the old hospitals; by the erection of dwellings on plans which experience has shown to be best adapted to the habits of these people; by greater attention to drainage; and by inculcating greater habits of cleanliness amongst the immigrants; all of which, it may be hoped, will not only promote the comfort of the people, but tend to lessen the death-rate. It is but just that I should state that the Government in these efforts are liberally supported by the Managers.

Public Works.

Under this head a large amount is annually expended, the greater portion of which is for minor works, and repairs to existing buildings, and does not call for any special remarks. Amongst the larger items I may enumerate an expenditure of 4,242*l.* on the continuation of the

sea-wall; 2,996*l.* on building a new police barracks in Georgetown; 945*l.* in providing additional accommodation in the almshouse; and 1,691*l.* on the hospitals. The total expenditure for public works was 22,261*l.*

Under Roads and Bridges the annual expenditure is always small, arising from the circumstance that the system in force in the time of the Dutch is still continued, which requires each proprietor of the estate through which any portion of a public road runs to keep it in repair at his own cost. The system is not one which can be commended. The Government has, therefore, only to repair such portions of the roads as run through public property. The total expenditure incurred did not exceed 1,661*l.*

Legislation.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed during the past year; of these the following are of most general interest:—

Ordinance 1 of 1870 was enacted for the purpose of preventing the practice of allowing the refuse from distilleries, usually called lees, to flow into and remain in the open trenches, which in this Colony surround and intersect all the sugar estates, a practice which not only created a nuisance but was prejudicial to the general health. By this Ordinance the managers are compelled to carry the lees into the sea or the river, as the case may be; or, where this is not practicable, into lees-ponds authorized by an annual licence. The Ordinance has already proved beneficial, and will, no doubt, gradually bring about a greater abatement of this nuisance.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1870 transferred to the West Indian Telegraph Company the privileges granted, by an Ordinance passed in 1869, to the International Ocean Telegraph Company. Under this Ordinance the Colony pays to the Company an annual subsidy of 3,000*l.* for the term of ten years, on the condition of a telegraphic line being established between this Colony and the United States, and connecting therewith the various West India Islands. I may here state that this work, important both in a political and commercial point of view, is now nearly completed, the only link wanting being between Porto Rico and Jamaica.

Ordinance 4 of 1870, to regulate the practice of quarantine. The object of this Ordinance, a draft of which was prepared by Her Majesty's Government, is to bring into practice throughout the Colonies a uniform system of quarantine.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1870. Arrears of business in the Supreme Court of Criminal Justice have frequently and unavoidably accumulated, and this Ordinance was passed to provide, in some degree, a remedy, by authorizing during any session two courts to be held simultaneously, presided over by separate judges.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1870 to amend and make uniform the promissory oaths required to be taken as a qualification for the exercise and enjoyment of offices and other civil rights. This Ordinance was passed in order to bring the form of promissory oaths in this Colony into conformity with those required by recent legislation to be taken in England.

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Ordinance No. 18 of 1870. This Ordinance was passed to repeal a former Ordinance, No. 10 of 1858, for making provision for the care and maintenance of lepers. The opinion formerly entertained on the nature of the disease of leprosy, presumed that the seclusion of persons afflicted with this loathsome malady was required for the public good. Recent and more accurate study of leprosy has shown that it is in nowise contagious, and the present Ordinance has been enacted to conform to this altered opinion. The Leper Asylum is now placed under the sole control of the Governor, and none can be admitted without his written authority. The asylum, in short, is on the principle of an almshouse, where those who are afflicted with the disease to such a degree as to be incapable of supporting themselves by their own labour, are taken care of and maintained at the expense of the Government. No persons are now admitted except at their own desire.

The other Ordinances relate either to finance or to matters having only a local interest or application.

Pensions.

Two pensions have lapsed by the death of the holders during the year 1870, amounting in the aggregate to a sum of 42*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* Another pensioner has been added to the list, who receives 90*l.* per annum. A decrease of 33*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* has therefore been made under this head of Service.

Population.

The returns under this head give the population ascertained by the last decennial census of 1861, and are of no value in a statistical point of view. The population since that time has greatly changed in many respects by the immigration from India, China, Madeira, and Barbados, but no accurate statistics could be given on this subject; and it is the less necessary to attempt any calculation to estimate the real number and character of the resident population, as the census taken during the present year will, on its compilation, afford accurate and full information on this point.

Savings Banks.

The total amount of the deposits on the 31st of December was 83,454*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, against 63,305*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.* on the 31st December, 1869. The number of depositors was 4,792 against 3,774 of the former year. The following Table exhibits the number of depositors and the amount deposited by each class of the population, compared with 1869:—

	1869.		1870.		Increase or Decrease of Deposits.
	No. of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	No. of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	
Indian Immigrants - -	1,622	26,700	2,057	40,928	14,228 increase.
Chinese Immigrants - -	46	1,090	42	1,219	129 increase.
Portuguese - -	332	9,726	193	8,077	1,649 decrease.
Creoles and others - -	1,774	25,790	2,500	33,230	7,440 increase.
Total - - -	3,774	63,306	4,792	83,454	20,148 increase.

It is a satisfactory feature in this return to find that the Indian immigrant depositors have increased in number, and that the aggregate amount of their investments in the savings banks exceed those of the previous year by a sum of 14,228*l*. The Chinese depositors remain much the same as before, both as to number and the amount deposited by them. There has been a falling off as regards the Portuguese, but this may be accounted for from the circumstance that these people are accustomed to hoard their savings, and then, when sufficient, embark them in some small trade. The number of Creole depositors is greater, and the aggregate sum deposited by them is 7,440*l*. over the amount to their credit at the close of 1869.

Education.

The sum of 16,387*l*. 10*s*. was provided by the Legislature for the support of education, and was distributed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Queen's College Grammar School - - - -	833	6	8
Bishop's College - - - - -	200	0	0
Roman Catholic Grammar School - - - -	208	6	8
Roman Catholic Orphan School - - - -	104	3	4
Support of training master and pupil teachers -	583	6	8
In aid of repairs to school house and school books	1,541	13	4
In aid of the General Schools - - - -	12,916	13	4

The last-mentioned item is distributed by the Board of Education in the form of grants-in-aid to the schools established by, and under the superintendence of, the various religious denominations, each grant being estimated on the average attendance of the pupils, and the class in which the school is placed by the Inspector at the annual examination. There are five classes of merit, the highest of which receives \$8, (1*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*.), and the lowest \$4 (16*s*. 8*d*.) per caput on the average attendance during the year.

The number of schools assisted by the Government was 156, of which 57 were Church of England, 30 Church of Scotland, 5 Roman Catholic, 24 Wesleyan, 27 London Missionary and Congregational, 2 Infant Schools, 4 Estates Schools, and 7 Indian Mission Schools.

The number of pupils on the 31st of December was 15,699, and the average attendance 8,894.

In addition to the above enumerated schools, others have been established by the proprietors or managers on several of the estates for the education of the Indian immigrant children, and it is to be hoped that this will soon become the rule rather than, as at present, the exception. It must be admitted that it is a subject which presents many difficulties; even in those Estates Schools where every exertion is made by the manager, it is difficult to obtain the attendance of the Coolie children, and in those where no such exertion is made the attendance is very scanty. Of the importance of educating the Indian children, rapidly increasing each year in number, and who at some future time will no doubt form a large portion of the resident labouring population of the Colony, there cannot be any doubt, and I am glad that this subject is attracting the attention of some of the largest non-resident proprietors.

BRITISH
GUIANA.*Gaols and Prisoners.*

The returns given under this head in the Blue Book, do not convey a correct view of the criminal statistics of the Colony; the classification adopted does not sufficiently distinguish the real character of the offences, nor, in consequence of the removal of prisoners from one gaol to another, can the true number of committals be ascertained. The following statement will exhibit a more correct view of the number and character of the offences committed during the past year :—

SUPREME COURTS.

1. Committed for trial	-	-	-	-	-	392
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SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

2. Petty thefts	-	-	-	-	-	914
3. Breaches of the peace and assaults	-	-	-	-	-	889
4. Indecent and abusive language	-	-	-	-	-	251
5. Other offences	-	-	-	-	-	563
6. Breaches of Revenue Laws	-	-	-	-	-	30
7. Merchant Shipping Acts	-	-	-	-	-	66
8. Courts-martial	-	-	-	-	-	11
9. Civil process	-	-	-	-	-	11
10. Breaches of the Labour Laws by immigrants	-	-	-	-	-	2,222
Total commitments	-	-	-	-	-	<u>5,349</u>

From this statement it will be seen that the number of committals reached the somewhat high number of 5,349 but of this number 2,222 were Indian or Chinese immigrants committed to prison, generally for very short periods, for being absent from their estates, or neglecting or refusing to perform the quantity of work required under their indentures, and most of whom were committed to the district prisons specially set apart for the punishment of this class of offenders. These offences do not involve any moral turpitude, and, if included in the criminal statistics, give an erroneous impression of the extent of crime. If these are deducted, there remain only 3,127 committals for offences against the general laws; a number which, I think, cannot be regarded as indicating a serious prevalence of crime.

For breaches of the peace and assaults, 889 persons were committed to gaol, and for using indecent and abusive language 251. Most of these offences were committed in Georgetown, and are to be attributed, and especially the latter offence, to the peculiar character of the Creole population. Petty thefts are also somewhat numerous and, unfortunately, no great disgrace is incurred, in the eyes of the mass of the lower grade of the people, by a crime of this kind. In this respect, and in many other points bearing upon the moral character of the lower classes of the Creole population, there is, it must be admitted, great room for improvement.

From the return in the Blue Book it appears that of the committals 332 were of persons committed once before, 94 twice before, and 64 three times or oftener. These figures must, however, be

accepted with hesitation as being indicative of renewed crime. It is not stated how many of these were Coolies re-committed for breaches the Labour Laws, an offence likely to be repeated by certain incorrigible idlers, or how many for petty crimes. Of commitals to the penal settlement, where the higher class of criminals are sent, it appears that two are classed as having been committed once before, and seven three times or oftener.

Hospitals.

In my Report for 1869 I described the actual condition of the hospitals, and pointed out the improvements that had been carried out since 1864, and how far their construction and management still differed from the principles laid down in the digest of that year. No material changes have been made during the past year which call for special mention.

The daily average in the General Hospital was 388. The total number admitted during the year, including those in the hospital on the 1st of January, was 4,269; of these 1,076 were discharged cured, 2,025 relieved, and 507 died.

In the Seaman's Hospital, Georgetown, the average daily number of patients was 49. The number admitted, including 21 in the hospital at the close of the previous year, was 611, of whom 8 died.

In the General Hospital, New Amsterdam, Berbice, the average daily number of patients was 100. The total number admitted, including the patients in the hospital at the commencement of the year, was 1,099, of whom 130 died. It will be remarked that a few of the patients have been retained in the hospital for long periods, but, as I have on a former occasion explained, this is almost unavoidable.

Lunatic Asylum.

The condition of the lunatic asylum was also fully described in the Report on the Blue Book of 1869.

In 1870 a sum was provided for enlarging the female part of the institution, and it is contemplated to add another wing for the accommodation of the male lunatics; and also to erect an open building, where the patients can find a place for recreation sheltered from the sun. When these are completed the accommodation and general arrangements will, it is considered, be all that is desired.

The number of inmates at the commencement of the year was 107, 54 were admitted during the year; 18 were discharged cured, and 10 died.

Charitable Institutions.

The other charitable institutions supported by the Government are — a leper asylum, containing about an annual average of 250 patients; an orphan asylum, in which there were at the close of the year 146 inmates, consisting of European, Portuguese, East Indian, and Chinese children; and an almshouse for the indigent and infirm, and for persons suffering from incurable maladies. It is a sort of poor-house and infirmary combined. During the past year it was found necessary to enlarge it, and, from a recent visit which I made,

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I find that it is still over-crowded, and in many respects unsatisfactory, and additional accommodation and improvements are urgently required. The number of inmates at the close of the year was 284.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I will add a few statistics which are not recorded in the Blue Book.

The number of deaths in the Colony was 6,203, which gives, on the estimated amount of the population, a death-rate of 2·9 per centum, being slightly less than that of the previous year. Of these deaths 1,365 were children not exceeding one year of age; 786 of children between one and five; and 266 between the ages of five and ten years. The mortality in Georgetown was 1,502, or 4·29 per cent. of the estimated population of the city.

I have in my general correspondence alluded to the circumstance that many persons do not obtain medical attendance during sickness. From a return made by the Registrar-General, it appears that of the 6,203 who died during the year, no less than 2,877 had no professional assistance. In the country districts, where the population is scattered, and the villages not easily accessible to medical practitioners, the want of medical attendance may be accounted for; but in Georgetown, where doctors are numerous, it is stated that of the 1,502 who died, only 966 received medical advice. Poverty, no doubt, prevents many from calling in the aid of a doctor, but there is reason to believe that others continue to place faith in the treatment of unskilled persons, and sometimes resort to Obeah men. The practice of Obeah is made an offence and punishable by imprisonment, but deeply-rooted superstitions are not quickly eradicated from the African race.

The number of births, exclusive of still-borns, registered for the year was 7,103, of which 3,622 were males, and 3,481 females. There was, therefore, an excess of 900 births over the deaths. Of these births 1,898 were children born in wedlock, and 5,205 born out of wedlock; but it must be explained that in this latter number are included the children born of the Indian and Chinese immigrants. It is a fact, however, that the lower orders of the Creole population look upon the marriage tie with much indifference. It is a remnant of the low morality which prevailed during the times of slavery, and which will cling to many succeeding generations.

Meteorological observations have not for many years received much attention, but an observatory has again been established in Georgetown. The extremes of temperature are not very wide; the lowest monthly average was 77·42° in January, and the highest 81·55° in the month of October. The barometric pressure does not vary greatly throughout the year: the highest recorded was 30·014 inches in April; the lowest, 28·915 inches in December. The Colony being situated out of the range of the West India hurricanes, no sudden or great changes take place.

The rainfall is always an important consideration; the cultivation of the sugar cane depends greatly upon its right distribution throughout the year, and fortunately this may be depended upon with

tolerable certainty. The rainfall of the past year is recorded in Georgetown at 129,142 inches. The greatest quantity fell in the months of January, May, and December, being respectively 35,130, 18,874, and 19,338 inches. The least monthly fall was in March, April, and September, being respectively 2,604, 3,631, and 2,709 inches.

It is gratifying that, in concluding this Report, I can remark, as at the conclusion of the former, that the Colony has been favoured with a healthy season, and that the condition of the Colony, regarded from an agricultural and commercial point of view, was satisfactory.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. SCOTT.

BAHAMAS.

BAHAMAS.

No. 5.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JAMES WALKER,
K.C.M., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 575.)

MY LORD, Government House, Nassau, April 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Bahamas for the year 1870.

2. In the Despatch which I addressed to your Lordship on the 30th of November last, in connection with the Blue Book for 1869, I brought up my Report on the condition and prospects of the Colony to nearly the close of 1870, and I have nothing now to add except to enclose a copy of the Address with which I recently opened the Legislative Session, and from which it will be seen that our expectations with regard to a more healthy state of the finances have been to a considerable extent realized.

I have, &c.,
The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) JAS. WALKER.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 5.

Enclosure in
No. 5.

SPEECH of His Excellency Sir JAS. WALKER, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
at the Opening of the Legislature.

*Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Gentleman of the House of Assembly:*

I am happy to meet you under much more agreeable circumstances than existed in the two preceding sessions. The expenditure of the Colony has been brought down to something like an equality with its probable income. The public servants, the pensioners, and the expenses of the several public establishments have been paid up to the close of the year. The Treasury notes, as they were called, have been nearly all cancelled, and the subsidies for the mail service, new and old, have been discharged up to date.

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I am happy, too, to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have consented to supplement the Governor's salary so as to maintain it at its former rate. In announcing this concession the Secretary of State was pleased in complimentary terms to express a hope that I would continue in the Government. I should indeed have been very glad to have availed myself of this gracious offer, and to have enjoyed a residence among you unclouded by the circumstances of the last two years, but considerations of health and other private reasons necessitate my retirement, and arrangements have been made for relieving me in April.

Instructions have been received for taking a census simultaneously in all the Colonies in the present year. A Bill has been prepared and will be submitted to you for the purpose.

On submitting the Bill of last year for amending the Quarantine Laws for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, it was again impressed upon me that it would be preferable to consolidate all the Acts of the Colony on that subject in one general enactment. Believing that you cannot have any objection thereto, a Bill to carry out this suggestion has been drafted, and will be presented to you.

I have been instructed to obtain from you an authority, such as is possessed by the Imperial Government at home, and in most of the Colonies, to prohibit the export of arms in cases of emergency. I see no reason why in this particular the Bahamas should continue to be an exception to the rule which prevails in other places, and I hope, therefore, that looking to what is passing elsewhere, you will relieve Her Majesty's Government from the possible embarrassment which might arise from the absence of such a law.

In concert with my Council I have endeavoured to give effect to the law of last session for improving and extending the mail communication with the United Kingdom and the United States.

Having failed in procuring tenders for the service upon the conditions laid down by the Legislature, or upon terms which would have been warranted by the state of the Colonial finances, an offer was made by the Company then under contract with us to give an additional mail to and from New York for seven months of the year, and to provide a small steamer for the conveyance of mails, passengers, and freight, to and from the anchorage in Salt Cay, for a sum which, with the former subsidy, would amount to 7,000*l*. That offer has, in the absence of any other possible mode of meeting the wishes of the Legislature, been accepted on trial for one year. It will be for you to say whether it shall be continued.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the Assembly :

The equalization of your income and expenditure affords a fit opportunity for the consideration of a very important point by no means new to you.

Under instructions from the Secretary of State I have caused estimates of the revenue and expenditure for the present year to be laid before you. But these estimates will be comparatively valueless, and indeed may defeat the very purpose for which they are framed, if the appropriations which they propose, and which will be regulated by

your probable means, are increased or supplemented by additional votes.

* I recommend to you, therefore, to dispense with the power of initiating grants of money, to vest in the Executive the responsibility in future of regulating your expenses by your income, and to confine yourselves to the constitutional practice of controlling and checking the financial proposals of the Executive.

If you should feel inclined to act on this suggestion, which I consider to be eminently conducive to good government, and to be the best mode of guarding against a recurrence of financial embarrassment, I am authorized to place the funds which have been hitherto at the disposal of the Crown, under your supervision equally with the Colonial revenue.

*Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

The great reduction which has taken place in the public expenditure could not have been effected without grievous hardship to individuals and without serious detriment to the trading interest of the Colony. For the two years 1867 and 1868 the payments from the Treasury amounted to 145,551*l.* For 1869 and 1870 they were only 85,701*l.* As a whole, the reductions appear to me to have been borne with a just estimate of the public necessities, and in a spirit which is entitled to my acknowledgements.

These pecuniary difficulties and other sources of contention having now passed away, you will be able to devote your attention to the legislative improvement of your institutions. The lunatic asylum in particular has attracted the notice of the authorities at home, who have recommended that the establishment should be brought more under the direct superintendence of the Executive.

The condition of the people in the out-islands I especially commend to your attention. I am fully aware of the difficulties of providing for the education and the improvement of a population so scattered, and it will be the duty of the Government, particularly in the allotment of land, to keep the people as much together as possible, and so bring them the better under the influence of any arrangements that may be made for their moral and religious teaching.

Upon these and all your deliberations I invoke the blessing of Almighty God.

(Signed) JAS. WALKER,

Nassau, 7th February, 1871.

Governor.

TRINIDAD.

. TRINIDAD.

No. 6.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor LONGDEN to The
EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 138.)

MY LORD,

Trinidad, July 22, 1871.

I HAVE now the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of
Trinidad for 1870, with my Report thereon.

2. I regret that it was not within my power to secure the compi-
lation of it at an earlier date. I have already explained the causes
of the delay, which will not be allowed to recur.

Finances.

Financial.

3. The finances of the Colony are in a satisfactory condition, the
public debt being in a course of gradual extinction, while a large
part of the public revenue is appropriated to the construction of roads
and public works calculated to promote and increase the prosperity
of the Colony. More than a fifth part of the whole revenue of 1870
was expended in immigration.

Revenue.

4. The total revenue received in 1870 was 283,585*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, in
which are included items of account amounting to 7,851*l.* 16*s.*;
deducting these, the total available revenue was 225,733*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*
This, though less than the amount collected in 1869, exhibits an
increase on the revenue of the preceding years. The net revenue
collected in each of the last years, excluding items of account, was as
follows:—

		£	s.	d.
In 1866	- - - - -	202,513	14	7
„ 1867	- - - - -	200,908	12	5
„ 1868	- - - - -	197,138	5	5
„ 1869	- - - - -	236,240	8	7
„ 1870	- - - - -	225,733	12	11

These figures give an average revenue during the five years of
212,506*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, so that the revenue of 1870 was 13,227*l.* in excess
of the average revenue.

Expenditure.

5. The total expenditure of 1870 was 241,148*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, of which
9,378*l.* were items of account, so that the total net expenditure was
231,770*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*

6. This sum exceeds the net revenue by 6,036*l.*, but there was not
any real excess of expenditure over income, for the accounts include
a sum of 14,982*l.* expended upon roads and bridges, which is not
chargeable against the revenue of 1870, but against certain surplus
balances of previous years, which were appropriated to this purpose
by a Resolution of the Council, dated the 10th November, 1869,
and the Ordinance No. 14 of 1869. After making this deduction
accordingly, it will be seen that instead of an apparent deficit of
6,036*l.*, there was a positive surplus of revenue over expenditure
amounting to 8,945*l.*

7. The expenditure may be classed under four principal heads, the respective amounts of which are stated below :—

Civil, judicial, ecclesiastical, and medical establishments, including maintenance of hospitals and asylums, police and gaols, and public education, administration of justice, cost of mail service, &c. - -	£	s.	d.
Public works and buildings, bridges, wharves, &c. - - - - -	180,844	11	6
Immigration - - - - -	39,612	13	10
Interest and repayment of debt - - - - -	46,764	17	1
	23,926	2	0
Total - - - - -	£241,148	4	5

8. The cash balances to the credit of the Government on the 31st December last (including the Crown-Agents' accounts), amounted to 129,190*l.* 12*s.*, and the deposits and other liabilities at the same date amounted to 102,969*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, leaving a net balance to the credit of the Colony of 26,221*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* Balances.

9. The public debts of the Colony comprise the following loans :— Public debt.
First, a loan raised for immigration purposes under the provisions of the Imperial Act 11 and 12 Vict., cap. 130, and the local Ordinance 15, of 1863. The sum borrowed was 125,000*l.*, of which 40,000*l.* was paid off on the 1st July, 1870, leaving 85,000*l.* still due, towards the repayment of which there was on the 31st of December, 1870, a sum of 69,731*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, invested in England under the authority of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. This debt bears interest at 4 per cent. The second debt is the amount raised upon debentures for the construction of tramroads under the authority of the Ordinances 4, of 1856, 3, of 1858, and 16, of 1859. The amount originally raised was 86,510*l.*, of which 38,210*l.* has been paid off, reducing the present debt to 48,300*l.*, which is secured by law upon the estates for whose benefit the tramroads were primarily constructed. These debentures bear interest at 6 per cent. The third debt was contracted under the authority of the Ordinance 18, of 1863, for the improvement of the roads in the ward of South Naparima. The amount borrowed was 7,000*l.*, at 6 per cent. interest; 2,250*l.* has since been paid off, leaving due 4,750*l.*, which is secured by a rent-charge of 550*l.* a year on the estates in the ward for whose benefit the loan was contracted. The fourth debt is a sum that was borrowed for defraying the cost of a public building under the authority of the Ordinance 1, of 1862. The sum raised was 16,000*l.*, of which 11,100*l.* has been redeemed, leaving 4,900*l.* still due, which is redeemable from the general revenue of the Colony at the rate of 1,600*l.* a year. This loan also bears 6 per cent. interest. The last loan was one of 15,000*l.*, raised under the Ordinance No. 10, of 1864, for the purpose of constructing a tramroad between the Cipero tramroad in Naparima and the borough of San Fernando. This loan is secured on the funds of the borough, and is redeemable at the rate of 600*l.* a year. It bears interest at 6 per cent. The sum of 2,200*l.* has been paid off, leaving 12,800*l.* still due. The aggregate amount of all these debts was originally 249,500*l.*, of which 93,760*l.* has been

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paid, leaving still due 155,740*l.* To cover this there is a sum of 69,731*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* in the sinking fund of the guaranteed loan, and 65,750*l.* is secured upon estates or local funds, so that the entire amount which remains primarily chargeable upon the public revenue is only 20,258*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

Local finances.

10. The establishment of primary schools, the relief of the poor, vaccination, the maintenance (in part) of the public highways, the cost of coroners' inquests, and the charge of enforcing sanitary regulations in the boroughs and wards of the Island, are provided for chiefly from local taxation. The amounts raised for and expended upon these objects in each district are set out in the following Table, which shows also the area of each district and its population.

	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Area in Square Miles (Statute Miles).	Population in 1871.	Population per Square Mile.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.			
Borough of Port of Spain	8,106	16 11	7,575	18 2	1	23,561	
Borough of San Fernando	2,984	8 3	2,961	18 9	1	5,006	
Ward Unions of—							
Tacarigua - - -	4,116	8 2	4,122	15 7	53	12,472	235
St. Ann's - - -	3,697	8 7	3,666	16 5	40	7,549	188
South Naparima - -	5,129	14 8	4,800	16 10	67½	10,433	155
Diego Martin - - -	2,985	19 9	2,808	5 1	50	7,283	145
North Naparima - -	4,648	6 8	4,808	15 10	92½	12,779	139
Couva - - -	4,506	4 0	4,011	16 4	81	10,233	126
Arima - - -	1,951	8 8	1,918	18 2	126	4,890	34
Montserrat - - -	879	10 5	656	14 0	128	3,888	26
Caroni - - -	1,866	11 9	1,767	11 2	186	4,714	25
Cedros - - -	2,804	17 4	2,284	16 7	234	4,241	18
Toco - - -	506	0 6	702	5 11	126	1,278	10
Mayaro - - -	1,317	5 3	1,330	10 7	*568½	2,311	4
Moruga - - -	250	9 9	187	7 7			
Totals - - -	45,245	15 5	43,407	7 3	1,754½	109,638	

* The boundary between these two districts is uninhabited and not defined with exactness.

Public Works.

Police barracks.

Electric telegraph.

New wharf.

New buildings.

11. The principal public building in progress during the year 1870 was the new police barracks, which include, besides, a police court, magistrates' and other offices, inspector-commandant's residence, police station, and lock-up. In this fine building, which was commenced during the administration of Sir Arthur Gordon, after a design by Mr. Street, fair progress was made during the past year, but the excessive rains during the wet season unavoidably retarded the progress of this extensive work. Next in importance is the electric telegraph, connecting Port of Spain with San Fernando and the intermediate towns, which was completed in 1870, and has proved of great utility both to the Government and to the public generally. The laborious task of filling up the swamp to the eastward of port of Spain was continued during the year at a cost of 4,432*l.* 6*s.* A new cottage for the Government botanist, a new ward at the lunatic asylum, and new police stations in the country, were the only other new works under construction. A large sum of money was laid out

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in necessary repairs to the leper asylum, the royal gaol, the hospital, several country police stations, and other public buildings.

Roads.

12. The expenditure upon roads and bridges was greater than that upon public buildings. Iron bridges were erected over the Cipero River and the Musquito Creek. A large iron bridge was provided for spanning the Godineau River, which is still in course of erection. A fourth iron bridge was procured from England for crossing the Arouca River, which has been erected and opened for traffic in the present year. Considerable progress was also made in laying out new royal roads and reconstructing others which had become impassable.

Legislation.

13. Twenty-two Ordinances were enacted during the year 1870, and amongst them were several of much importance. Laws.

14. Number 1, called the "Habitual Criminals Ordinance," was adapted chiefly from analogous English legislation.

15. Number 2, called the "Alien Criminals Ordinance," was made necessary by the resort to Trinidad of persons from the French penal settlement of Cayenne.

16. Number 3, relating to the feeding of Indian immigrants, was subsequently incorporated in the general Ordinance, No. 13 relating to immigration.

17. Number 4 is a short Ordinance, transferring the jurisdiction of the Petty Debt Court in the town of San Fernando from the Stipendiary Magistrate of the eastern division of the county of St. Patrick, to the Magistrate of the county of Victoria, in which latter county the town is situate.

18. Number 5 authorizes the appointment of a Colonial store-keeper, who performs the duty of master or steward of the Colonial hospital, and likewise exercises a salutary control over the supplies of the other charitable institutions of the Colony.

19. Number 6 is the law with regard to education which was prepared and passed during the administration of Sir Arthur Gordon. The Report of Mr. Keenan, Sir Arthur Gordon's Despatches, and the other papers lately presented to Parliament on the subject of "Education in Trinidad," fully disclose the motives and objects of this important measure, and supersede the necessity of any present report upon it.

20. Number 7 is an Ordinance to authorize a new assessment of ward rates to be made in the ward of Arima.

21. Number 8 authorizes the advance from the Treasury of the cost of the iron bridge over the Arouca River, which I have before mentioned. The cost is to be repaid by instalments from the road funds of the ward in which it is situate.

22. Number 9 authorizes the construction of works for supplying the borough of San Fernando with water from the Montserrat Hills. The cost, which is approximately estimated at 20,000*l.*, is to be advanced from the Treasury; but two-thirds of the cost, not exceeding, however, in any case 13,333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, is to be repaid from the funds of the borough by annual instalments, with interest at 6 per

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cent. Instructions have been given for making the surveys and levels, which must be completed before the work can be commenced.

23. Number 10 repeals an Ordinance passed in 1844 "for the better regulation of the duties of the Clergy of the United Church of England and Ireland in this Colony, and for ensuring the more effectual performance of the same." By the repeal of this Ordinance the Church of England in Trinidad was virtually disestablished. The endowments of the church were at the same time provided for upon the same footing as before by a resolution of the Council passed on the 25th of March, 1870.

24. Number 11 repeals an Ordinance of 1862, constituting certain rectories of the Church of England in this Colony. This repeal was made necessary by the preceding measure.

Immigration Ordinance.

25. Number 12 is the usual supplemental Appropriation Ordinance.

26. Number 13 is an Ordinance amending and consolidating into one law the different enactments relating to the immigration of Coolies from the East Indies and China. By this Ordinance many changes and improvements were made in the laws previously existing. Among the most important provisions of the new law are those which regulate the allotment of immigrants upon their arrival in the Colony, the supply of food to them during the first two years of their residence, their lodging, the medical attendance and hospitals provided for them, their wages, the exemption of women from labour, the prevention of vagrancy, and the right of repatriation.

Rules of allotment.

27. The allotment of immigrants upon their arrival in the Colony is based upon requisitions which must be sent in by the planters to the Immigration Office before the 1st of April preceding the immigration season. No allotment can be made to any estate upon which the mortality in the previous year has exceeded 7 per cent. Under this provision, 20 estates were disqualified from receiving new Coolies in 1870, and 11 estates in 1871. This provision fully meets the suggestion put forward in the 535th paragraph of the Report of the Commissioners who lately inquired into the treatment of immigrants in British Guiana. It is also required as a condition of allotting immigrants, that 15 per cent. of those previously on the estate should have earned at least sixpence a day for every day during the preceding 12 months. No estates have been disqualified under this rule. Finally, no immigrants can be allotted to an estate on which there is not a hospital certified by an immigration officer.

Feeding of immigrants.

28. Every immigrant over 10 years of age must, for the first two years of his residence, be furnished with the following daily ration of food:—One pound of rice, four ounces of dhol or approved vegetable food, two ounces of sugar, one ounce of cocoanut oil or ghee. This ration is rather less than that recommended by the Demerara Commissioners, paragraph 542; but it allows the Coolie to receive a larger share of his wages in cash, which he much prefers. The price of the ration is fixed at fourpence, which the employer is authorized to deduct from the Coolie's wages. At the end of the first year the immigration officers may, on the application of the immigrants themselves, order the discontinuance of the rations. This is only done where the immigrants appear to be in good health, and is not a practice to be encouraged, for it was found by experience, when the

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issue of food was limited to the first year after their arrival, that the mortality in the second year of their residence was excessive.* A half-ration must be supplied, free of charge, to every child above five and under 10 years of age.

29. It is provided by the Ordinance that the Governor may make regulations respecting the lodging, &c., provided for the immigrants. Regulations have been made accordingly, requiring that the houses appropriated to Coolies shall be properly drained, floored with wood, and whitewashed at least once a year, both inside and out. Power is also given to make regulations for enforcing the observance by the immigrants themselves of cleanliness about their dwellings.

Lodging.

30. A great change was made by the law in the position of the medical attendants of estates. They have hitherto been private practitioners employed and paid by the owners of the estates. Under the new law the Governor is empowered to nominate "Medical Visitors of Plantations," and to assign to each of them a salary in respect of each certified hospital attended by them. The salaries are paid from the immigration fund. As a matter both of justice and of necessity the actual medical attendants of the estates at the time of the change were nominated Medical Visitors of Plantations. The principles observed in the assignment of salaries and other matters connected with the change were detailed in my Despatch, No. 6, of the 19th of January last. The change only took effect from the beginning of this year, and though the result of it cannot be reported at present, there can be little doubt it will be beneficial to the Coolie. The medical visitors of plantations are now responsible to the Governor alone for the medical treatment of the immigrants, and it is their duty to make detailed quarterly reports to the Agent-General of Immigrants of the age, sex, disease, and treatment, of all patients attended by them in the hospitals under their care.

Medical attendance.

31. Every estate having indentured immigrants must be provided with a hospital capable of accommodating a tenth-part of the number of such immigrants. These hospitals are to be certified, after inspection, by officers of the Immigration Department, for such number of patients only as will allow 800 cubic feet of space to each patient. Overcrowding is forbidden under a penalty of 10*l*. The medical visitor is required to visit every hospital within his district twice a week, and to make an entry of his visit in the Case-book, which is to be kept at the hospital and to be open to the inspection of the Agent-General or Inspector of Immigrants. It is required that each hospital shall be a detached building, properly drained, and furnished with a sufficient supply of pure water. Every bed is to be furnished with a pillow and blanket, and every patient with a clean hospital dress. The food is to be issued to the patients properly cooked, and the employer is to cause the medicines and diet ordered by the medical visitor to be given to each patient.

Hospitals for immigrants.

32. The wages to be given to indentured Coolies must be at the same rate as those given to unindentured labourers. These vary from 20 to 30 cents for a task, most commonly 25 cents. The task is often completed by two o'clock, sometimes earlier; but it does not

Wages.

* See paragraph 52.

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— appear usual for the Coolies to work more than one task in the day. The indentured labourer must work 280 days in the year, but this obligation does not extend to females in times of pregnancy or sickness.
- Vagrancy.** 33. For the prevention of vagrancy every indentured labourer must, on leaving his estate, be provided with a pass from his employer, in default of which he may be arrested by any constable and detained until he can be brought before a stipendiary magistrate, who may, on proof that he is an indentured labourer absent without permission, order him to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding seven days, and then sent back to his employer.
- Repatriation and settlement.** 34. At the end of an actual and continuous residence of ten years the Coolie has a right to a free passage back to India at the public expense. He may, if he pleases, commute this right for a grant of ten acres of Crown land. Many of the Coolies have taken advantage of this, and settled themselves permanently in the Colony. Three Coolie villages have been formed of these settlers. I reported on this subject in my Despatch, No. 61, of the 15th of April last. The settlement of Coolies in the Colony is advocated in the Report of the Demerara Commissioners (paragraphs 842 to 856), upon considerations which are, in many respects, applicable also to Trinidad. This Colony offers considerable advantages in this respect, that fertile lands are allotted to Coolies, requiring no expensive system of draining, as in Demerara, to render them fit for cultivation, but merely to be cleared and planted.
35. There are many other important clauses in the new law, but I have only drawn attention to the principal provisions made for insuring the health, comfort, and welfare of the Coolies.
- Land Transfer Ordinance.** 36. The next Ordinance, No. 14, is a very important law. It is an Ordinance for the declaration of titles to land, and to facilitate its transfer, adapted principally from a similar law in New South Wales. It was not brought into operation in 1870.
- District medical officers.** 37. Number 15 is an Ordinance for the appointment of district medical officers, thirteen of whom have been appointed. Each district medical officer is a coroner, the vaccinator, and the sanitary inspector of his district. The establishment of dispensaries in each district, where medical relief shall be afforded at stated intervals, is under consideration.
- Incorporation of Roman Catholic Archbishop. Judgment debtors.** 38. By the Ordinance No. 16 the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port of Spain is created a body corporate, with power to hold property for the use of the Roman Catholic Church.
39. The Ordinance No. 17 amends the law for the attachment of the debts due to judgment debtors.
- Planters' tax.** 40. The Ordinance No. 18 defines the rate of export duty on sugar and cocoa to be levied in 1871. This duty is appropriated solely to the purposes of immigration. The duty was increased to 7s. 6d. per hogshhead of sugar, and 1s. 6½d. per 100 lbs. of cocoa, in order to meet the increased charges thrown upon the immigration fund by the salaries of the medical visitors of plantations, the expense of a return ship to India, and a deficiency in the fund for 1870.
- Appropriation and Income Tax Ordinances.** 41. Ordinance 19 is the Annual Appropriation Act, and Ordinance 20 extends the exemption from income tax to incomes under 200l.

a-year, and reduces the tax on incomes above 200*l.* and under 300*l.* to 4*d.* in the pound, the rate on incomes over 300*l.* being 5*d.*

42. Ordinance 21 postpones the coming into operation of the Land Transfer Ordinance, No. 14, on account of the difficulty found in organizing a working staff to carry out the law. This postponement is only temporary.

43. The last Ordinance, No. 22, provided for the taking of the decennial census in 1871.

Civil Establishment.

44. Some changes took place in the principal offices of the Government in 1870. Governor Sir Arthur Gordon left the Island to assume the Government of Mauritius, and I was sworn in as his successor on the 25th of June. Chief Justice Needham, appointed to succeed the late Chief Justice Knox, arrived and entered upon his duties in May. Mr. Charles Warner resigned the office of Attorney-General, and was succeeded by Mr. Garcia, formerly Solicitor-General. Mr. Justice Bowen retired from the Bench on a pension, and was succeeded by Mr. Court as Second Puisne Judge. Mr. Bulwer having resigned the office of Receiver-General, Mr. Hoare was appointed to succeed him, and entered upon his duties in October. Mr. James S. Hobson, formerly Stipendiary Magistrate of the Eastern Division of the county of St. George, was promoted to the Stipendiary Magistracy of Port of Spain, vacated by the death of Mr. Stone. Mr. D. Wilson was appointed to succeed Mr. Hobson. Captain Newland was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate of San Fernando and the county of Victoria, in place of Mr. T. Shirley Warner, who retired on a pension. Dr. Crane was nominated by your Lordship to succeed the late Dr. Dasent as Surgeon-General, but did not arrive in the Colony until 1871. Dr. Cuddiford was appointed House Surgeon, and Mr. Glanville Assistant Surgeon, of the Colonial hospital in Port of Spain, and entered on their duties in December. Mr. J. J. Thomas was nominated Secretary to the Board of Education. Mr. Sealy was appointed Superintendent of Prisons. There were also some minor departmental changes which are noted in the Blue Book. ;

Changes in
establishment

Population.

45. The population of Trinidad was ascertained by the census taken on the 10th of April, 1871, to be 109,638, being an increase of 25,200 during the last 10 years.

Census of
1871.

46. The number of males was returned as 60,405, and the number of females as only 49,233, showing an excess of 11,172 males. Of this excess 9,145 is found among the Indian immigrants, who number 18,285 males to 9,140 females. The proportion among all other classes of the population is 42,120 males to 40,093 females, showing an excess of 2,027 males.

Proportion of
sexes.

47. Nearly three-fifths of the population are returned as natives of Trinidad. The following abstract shows the birth-place of the rest of the population :—

Birth-places,
population.

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Born in Trinidad (including children of Indian parents)										
										61,237
"	India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,880
"	British Colonies*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,707
"	Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,256
"	Venezuela	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,195
"	Other foreign countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,979
"	The United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	954
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400
Portuguese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	605
Not described	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	425
Total										109,638

Distribution of the people.

48. The population is distributed most unequally over the Island, large tracts being entirely uninhabited, and others most thinly inhabited. The two wards of Mayaro and Moruga, containing 568 square miles, nearly a third of the area of the whole Island, have a population of 2,311, being at the rate of only four inhabitants to the square mile. The five ward unions of Toco, Arima, Caroni, Montserrat, and Cedros, containing together 800 square miles, have a population of 18,011, being at the rate of 22 to the square mile; and the remaining six wards of Diego Martin, St. Ann's, Tacaregua, Couva, North and South Naparima, including the towns of Port of Spain and San Fernando, occupy an area of 386 square miles, with a population of 89,318, being at the rate of 231 inhabitants to the square mile.

Immigration.

Number of immigrants brought to Colony in 1870.

49. The Report of the Agent-General of Immigrants shows that during the season terminating on the 1st October, 1870, there were 2,881 immigrants of all ages landed here from Calcutta. The number embarked was 2,933, and the deaths on the voyage were 52; of these 21 were children, so that the mortality on the passage was only 1 per cent. among adults alone, and 1·7 on the whole number.

Present Indian population.

50. The whole population of Indian origin now in the Colony was ascertained by the recent census to be 28,425. Of these, it appears from the Agent-General's returns that 7,888 were working under their first five years' indenture, and 2,330 having completed their original contracts were working under fresh engagements, leaving 18,207 resident in the Colony not under any indenture. In this number are included the children, whether of indentured or unindentured Coolies.

Mortality among Coolies.

51. The recorded mortality in 1870 among 8,236 indentured Coolies was 359, being at the rate of 4·3 per cent. The rate varied according to the length of the Coolies' residence, in the proportions shown in the following Table:—

* Chiefly other British West India Islands.

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		Total Number.	Deaths in 1870.	Rate per cent.
Arrived in 1866	-	838	17	2.0
" 1867	-	2,023	47	2.3
" 1868	-	1,420	56	3.9
" 1869	-	1,744	162	10.7
" 1870	-	2,211	77	3.4
Total	-	8,236	359	4.3

52. The comparatively small mortality in the first year of residence is attributed by the Agent-General to the system lately introduced of issuing a daily ration of food to the immigrants during the first twelve months of their residence. The excessive mortality of the second year is attributed in like manner to the discontinuance of the rations at the end of twelve months. Under the new immigration law the ration system is extended to two years, unless otherwise ordered by the immigration officers.

53. The total cost of immigration in 1870, exclusive of the establishment of the Agent-General's office, was 46,764*l*. This included the cost of a ship carrying back to India Coolies who were entitled to a return passage.

Cost of immigration.

Education.

54. By the Education Ordinance, No. 6, of 1870, public provision was made for the promotion of liberal education by the establishment of the "Queen's Royal College of Trinidad." This college absorbs the formerly existing Queen's Collegiate School, and the Roman Catholic College of the Immaculate Conception has also been declared in connection with it. The students of the Roman Catholic College are admitted as students of the Royal College, and compete for the annual exhibitions. The Principal of the Roman Catholic College receives a salary of 500*l*. per annum, and about the same amount is granted in results fees according to the Ordinance. Free admission to the college is granted annually to six pupils chosen by competition from the primary schools. Four exhibitions of 150*l*. a-year each for three years are annually granted to the students of the college who pass the best examination, to be applied to their maintenance at some university in Great Britain and Ireland. There are at present 127 students on the books of the college.

Queen's Royal College.

55. Under the direction of the Principal of the Royal College, there is a normal school for the training of teachers for the primary schools of the Colony. The normal school contains 12 students. It appears to be a very useful institution, and indispensable for providing properly qualified teachers, for the primary schools. At the examination of teachers, and candidates for the office of teacher, in the primary schools, held in January last, four students from the normal school passed in a very satisfactory manner.

Normal schools.

56. There are 35 primary schools supported from public funds. Of these two are model schools (one for boys and one for girls) supported directly from the public treasury; three are borough schools, supported from the funds of the boroughs of Port of Spain and San Fernando; and 30 are ward schools, formerly supported from

Primary schools.

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the ward rates, but since September, 1870, from a special education rate levied under the authority of the Education Ordinance of 1870. The total number of children in all these schools is returned by the Inspector of Schools as 3,336.

57. Besides these, there are denominational schools attached to the Church of England and other churches, which do not receive any aid from the public treasury, and there are several private schools; it is estimated that these schools provided education for 700 children.

58. The improvements effected by the recent change in the law governing public education in Trinidad will be more satisfactorily reported upon after a longer experience has been gained of the operation of the new regulations.

Trade.

Imports.

59. The gross value of the Imports into the Colony during the year 1870 amounted to 1,042,678*l.* This sum includes 30,045 ounces of gold, valued at 112,668*l.*, brought to the Colony from the mines of Las Pablas in Venezuela, and afterwards re-exported. The following summary shows the different countries from which the importations took place :—

	Value of Importations. £
From the United Kingdom - - - - -	448,309
„ British Possessions - - - - -	189,115
„ the United States- - - - -	151,306
„ Venezuela (including the above-named gold) -	160,885
„ France and French Colonies - - - - -	64,878
„ Spain and Spanish Colonies - - - - -	15,189
„ Holland and Dutch Colonies - - - - -	723
„ the Republic of Uruguay (Monte Video) -	9,211
„ Germany - - - - -	1,707
„ Portuguese Colonies (Madeira, &c.) - - -	1,003
„ Other countries - - - - -	347

60. The Blue Book contains a detailed list of the different kinds of merchandise imported; the following summary shows the value of each of the principal classes of imports :—

	Value. £ s. d.
Bricks and tiles - - - - -	8,030 14 9
Candles - - - - -	13,339 8 9
Coals - - - - -	8,412 10 0
Forage (oats, hay, bran, corn, oil-meal, &c.) -	24,490 9 7
Gold - - - - -	112,668 15 6
Hardware and machinery - - - - -	88,489 0 11
Leather (manufactured) - - - - -	29,687 6 10
Live stock - - - - -	36,392 8 0
Lumber and wood - - - - -	84,862 16 0
Provisions - - - - -	206,678 10 1
Specie - - - - -	43,403 15 0
Spirits, wine, ale, &c. - - - - -	47,715 1 3
Textile goods - - - - -	157,017 3 1
Tobacco- - - - -	16,614 18 9
Sundries - - - - -	214,825 4 6
	<u>£1,042,678 3 0</u>

61. As population spreads over the now unsettled districts, and internal communication is facilitated and improved, many of the articles now imported from abroad, such as rice and all tropical vegetables and provisions, Indian corn, and even live stock, might with advantage and economy be raised within the Island.

62. The exports of 1870 are valued at 1,277,574*l*. Of this sum Exports. the products of the Island were valued at 932,884*l*.

63. As compared with the large crop of 1869, the produce of sugar, 1870, shows a diminution of 22 per cent., a necessary sequence of the unusually dry weather in 1869. The crop did not however fall below the average of the last ten years, as will be seen from the following Table :—

						Cwt.
Exports of sugar in 1860	-	-	-	-	-	540,678
" " 1861	-	-	-	-	-	549,464
" " 1862	-	-	-	-	-	738,117
" " 1863	-	-	-	-	-	668,255
" " 1864	-	-	-	-	-	706,246
" " 1865	-	-	-	-	-	560,166
" " 1866	-	-	-	-	-	813,339
" " 1867	-	-	-	-	-	828,116
" " 1868	-	-	-	-	-	830,708
" " 1869	-	-	-	-	-	929,365

Average of ten years, 716,454 cwt. Export of 1870, 819,042 cwt.

64. The export of cocoa in 1870 reached 64,076 cwt., and showed Export of an increase of 8,184 cwt., and is much above the average produce of cocoa. the last ten years, which was 53,181 cwt. As it is five or six years from the time of planting before young cacao trees come into full bearing, the increase in the annual production is necessarily slow. The price of Trinidad cocoa in the European markets varies greatly according to its quality, being quoted from 85 shillings per cwt. for the commoner kinds, to 130 shillings for the most superior.* It is obviously most important that in forming new plantations care should be taken to perpetuate only the finest and most profitable kinds. No doubt the quality, and therefore the price of the cocoa depends in some measure upon the character of the soil, but much also depends upon the selection of the proper kinds for planting, and upon careful cultivation. This is a subject which might profitably engage the attention of the local Society of Arts, especially at the present time, when a forward movement is proceeding in the settlement of Crown lands by small proprietors, most of whom will probably engage in cacao cultivation.

65. The largest part of the produce of the Colony was as usual shipped to the United Kingdom. Some was sent to the United States. The trade with other countries and colonies was chiefly in merchandise, not the produce of the Colony. The distribution of the export trade is shown in the following summary :—

* Quoted from 'Trinidad Chronicle' of July 25th, quoting 'The Grocer,' June 24th, 1871.

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	£	s.	d.
To the United Kingdom - - - - -	931,255	19	7
" British Possessions - - - - -	63,521	14	2
" the United States - - - - -	21,412	7	6
" Venezuela - - - - -	102,501	0	0
" France - - - - -	39,432	5	7
" Spanish West Indies - - - - -	8,694	8	0
" French West Indies - - - - -	6,778	8	2
" Germany - - - - -	1,667	12	0
" other places - - - - -	908	7	6

Agriculture.

66. The periodical assessment of lands under cultivation will be made in the present year. The areas given in the Blue Book are repeated from the former assessment. I propose therefore to postpone making any report upon this subject until next year.

Grants of Land.

67. Six hundred and eighty-eight grants of Crown land were made in 1870. The total quantity granted was 9,316 acres. Much of this land had been previously in the occupation of squatters, but some of it had not been previously reclaimed. Some of the grants were made to Indian immigrants in lieu of return passages to India, the remainder was sold at the upset price of 1*l.* per acre.

Gaols and Prisoners.

Not printed. 68. I enclose a Report upon the Royal Gaol of 'Trinidad drawn up by the present able Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. Sealy. The total number of prisoners committed in the year 1870, including 30 adjourned cases, was 2,012. This is a considerable decrease upon the numbers committed in the four preceding years. The following summary shows the principal offences or causes of committal :—

Adjourned cases - - - - -	30
Arson - - - - -	7
Assaults - - - - -	154
Burglary - - - - -	17
Cruelty to animals - - - - -	6
Cutting wood without licence - - - - -	5
Damaging property - - - - -	14
Damaging with intent to steal - - - - -	19
Drunkenness - - - - -	85
Fighting - - - - -	51
Forgery - - - - -	2
Fraud and embezzlement - - - - -	10
Gambling - - - - -	17
Indecent behaviour and language - - - - -	116
Killing and slaying - - - - -	20
Larceny - - - - -	257
Menaces - - - - -	10
Murder - - - - -	11
Obtaining goods under false pretences - - - - -	4
Rape - - - - -	5
Receiving stolen goods - - - - -	24

Riotous conduct - - - - -	11	TRINIDAD.
Streets, offences in public, furious driving, throwing stones, &c. - - - - -	56	
Stabbing and wounding - - - - -	22	
Trespass - - - - -	26	
Vagrancy - - - - -	22	
Sundry other offences - - - - -	26	
Committed for offences against immigration laws, breach of contract, &c. - - - - -	727	
Committed for debt - - - - -	218	
Committed for want of bail - - - - -	6	
Crown witnesses - - - - -	4	
Soldiers committed by military authorities - - - - -	11	
Policemen committed for offences against police ordinance - - - - -	8	
Committed for squatting - - - - -	18	
Committed for offence against fire ordinance - - - - -	8	
Total committals - - - - -	2,012	

69. The following is a summary of the nationalities of the prisoners committed in 1870 :—

Natives of Trinidad - - - - -	873
" India - - - - -	979
" Other West India Islands - - - - -	341
" China - - - - -	147
" Africa - - - - -	79
" Europe - - - - -	62
" Venezuela - - - - -	22
" North America - - - - -	8
" Australia - - - - -	6
Total - - - - -	2,012

70. The large preponderance of Indians is explained by reference to the offences against the immigration laws—committed only by immigrants—which numbered more than a third of the total committals. These offences are of two kinds, breach of contract in not performing their allotted tasks, and contravening the Ordinance by quitting the estates to which they are indentured without a pass; the punishment for these statutory offences varies from seven days' to three months' imprisonment.

71. The year 1870 was marked by a great increase in the number of burglaries and nocturnal robberies in Port of Spain, which were attributed by the public, in great measure, to the influx of a number of French convicts from the convict settlement of Cayenne.

Hospitals and Asylums.

72. In the Port of Spain hospital there were 208 patients remaining at the commencement of the year, and 1,854 patients were admitted. Of these 1,264 were discharged cured, and 429 relieved; 164 died; and 205 remained in the hospital at the close of the year. The daily average of patients was 186. Three thousand six hundred out-patients were seen or prescribed for. The mortality in this hospital

TRINIDAD.

in 2,062 cases (the total number of patients treated) was 7·95 per cent. The hospital was successively under the care of three house-surgeons, Dr. Bostock, who resigned in August, Dr. Ortiz, who took temporary charge, and Dr. Cuddeford, the present house-surgeon, who relieved Dr. Ortiz in December.

73. In the San Fernando hospital there were 71 patients at the commencement of the year; 605 were admitted; 427 were discharged cured; 25 were relieved; 121 died; and 103 remained in the hospital at the close of the year. The daily average was 76. The mortality in this hospital in 676 cases was at the rate of 17·89. The cause of this excessive mortality has been under investigation by Dr. Crane, the Surgeon-General, and will, I trust, be removed.

74. New regulations are now under consideration for improving the management of both these hospitals.

75. In the lunatic asylum the daily average of patients through the year was 91. Thirty-three patients were admitted and 16 discharged cured during the 12 months. Ten died. This asylum is very well managed under the careful superintendence of Dr. Murray, the medical officer in charge.

76. Besides these three institutions there are several others for the relief of the indigent sick, namely, the leper hospital at Cocorite, and the house of refuge, both supported by the Government; an almshouse supported by the Municipality of Port of Spain; and an orphan home for Coolie children, supported partly by Government, partly by voluntary contributions, and partly by the exertions of the children, who are taught to labour in the grounds belonging to the house.

Literary Institutions.

77. The principal literary institution is the public library, founded by Ordinance in 1851, and supported by subscription aided by a grant of 300*l.* a year from the public treasury. The library is at present kept in a hired house, but it is in contemplation to erect a suitable public building, which would not only include the library, but also afford accommodation for the large collection of birds, reptiles, and other specimens of the natural history of the Island, prepared by the late Dr. Leotand, and now in possession of the Government. A public museum, exhibiting a complete collection of specimens of the natural history and of the geology and mineralogy of the Island, could not fail to be a public advantage.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Governor.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B.,
to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 113.)

Windward Islands, Barbados,

MY LORD,

September 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies, in duplicate, of the Blue Book for the year 1870, together with my Report to accompany it.

2. Your Lordship will observe that the former is printed for the first time, which will render its contents much more widely useful than hitherto. The difficulties in the way of completing it earlier, according to your Lordship's desire and instructions, have been explained in my Despatch, No. 61, of the 7th June last.

3. I have satisfaction in reporting that the past year proved somewhat more favourable for the population and commerce of the Island than the one preceding. The prosperity of Barbados depends mainly—almost entirely—upon its sugar crop. The sugar crop depends upon the rainfall. The one may be considered as the wet bulb, and the other as the dry bulb, of the instrument by which the well-being of the Island may be annually gauged.

4. The rainfall of 1868, followed by the very deficient crop of 1869, was only 44·60 inches. It had only once been less in the last 24 years, viz. in 1863, when it was followed by a crop which fell below the average by 19 per cent. In 1858 it was 44·75 inches, closely the same as in 1868, and was followed by a crop 11 per cent. below the average. The rainfall of 1869 was somewhat higher, 48·52 inches. The nearest approximation to that was 48·49 inches in 1856, which was followed by a crop 14 per cent. below the average.

5. The crop of 1869 was the smallest that had been taken off since the years 1847–49, when the system of planting was very much inferior, and the use of artificial manures had scarcely been introduced. The yield of 1869 was only 32,150 hogsheads, being 28 per cent. below the average. In 1859 the deficiency was not so great, only 11 per cent.; in 1864 it was 19 per cent. The yield of 1870 was 39,360 hogsheads, which was 12 per cent. below the average, corresponding closely with that of 1857, which was 14 per cent. below it.

6. The above connection between the rainfall and the crops, and the frequent coincidences between similar years, as in 1857 and 1870, are so remarkable, as to appear to me to justify the prominence which I have given to them in this Report, with the view of attracting the attention of sugar planters on this and other islands to the subject, and of stimulating them to preserve, if they already fortunately possess, an abundant supply of rain, or means of irrigation, or to

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acquire them by artificial appliances, if, as in this Island, they do not possess them, and are exposed to frequently recurring droughts.

7. The earlier part of the year 1870 was marked by much discouragement and apprehension, not only for the crop of the year, but for that of 1871. The rainfall of the first five months had been 15 per cent. less than that of the corresponding period in 1869, and 25 per cent. less than the average. An abundant rainfall in June (being nearly double the average), and a well-distributed and sufficiently abundant rainfall during the remainder of the year, although it came too late to benefit the crop of the year, dissipated the apprehension of a third consecutively deficient crop, and encouraged a reasonable expectation, which has since been realized, of an abundant, if not of a large crop in 1871.

8. Consequently, as the year advanced, as the losses arising from the short quantity, and very low quality, of the crop of 1869, and from the low prices which the crop generally fetched, were settled, and began to be forgotten, the spirits of the agriculturists, which is synonymous with the population of Barbados, rose with the pluviometer, and had nearly recovered their normal height by the end of the year.

9. Other circumstances contributed to this result. Two sugar refineries were brought into active operation in Bridgetown, which provided a profitable local market for molasses and even for inferior sugars. Foreign trade prospered. The war in France caused an extraordinary temporary demand for an unusual class of goods from the neighbouring French colonies. The political conflict between the two Chambers was brought to an end. Public works were resumed. The revenue increased; useful legislation was revived; and the cloud of depression and stagnation, intensified by the bitterness of political strife, which had hung over the Island for the two preceding years, began to disperse. I will proceed to note the principal features of the annual returns.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

10. A complete revision of the tariff was made, and the new law came into operation after the 31st March. No great changes were made in the rates of duty, but the operations of trade were facilitated, and the exemption of articles required for the use of Her Majesty's military and naval services was made complete. Further facilities in respect of bonding bulky goods, not likely to be smuggled, were given, by establishing two classes of bonding warehouses—one, under that name, for spirits, wine, tobacco, and articles of that description, in which the bonding system is strictly maintained; the other, called licensed warehouses, in which the same constant superintendence of an officer is dispensed with, but the parties licensed are held responsible for the duties on all articles deposited therein, whenever taken out for consumption, or ascertained to be deficient.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

11. As a review of the finances of a single year gives but an imperfect idea of the financial position of a country, it may not be out

of place to repeat here some of the statements which I had occasion to lay before the Legislature when sending down the estimates of the year.

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12. The financial accounts of the last four years exhibit satisfactory results; first, stability in the revenue, notwithstanding that two successive unfavourable seasons have greatly reduced the staple crop of the Island, and straitened the means of the population; and, secondly, equalization of revenue with expenditure, notwithstanding the advances made during this period to sundry public bodies, and the payment of heavy arrears for works due at the commencement of it.

13. The gross revenue of 1870 amounted to 104,931*l.*; in 1869 it was 102,606*l.*; in 1868, 105,545*l.*

14. After deducting the addition of 20 per cent. made to the Customs duties in April, 1868, for the purposes of creating a fund for the erection of public buildings, the balance of ordinary revenue applicable to general purposes in each of the three years was:—

In 1868	-	-	-	-	-	£ 99,521
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	-	94,424
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	-	96,372
The amount in 1867 was	-	-	-	-	-	98,347

15. The large crop made in 1868 only increased the revenue of that year by about 1,200*l.* The small crop of 1869 reduced it by 5,100*l.* Last year the revenue, though improved, was still 2,000*l.* below the amount of 1867.

16. The additional Customs duties have yielded in the three years as follows, nett, after deducting drawbacks:—

In 1868	-	-	-	-	£ 6,024
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	8,182
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	8,560
					} £22,766

The amount remaining available at the close of the year, after paying 6,476*l.* for the purchase of the site, and 2,509*l.* in instalments upon the contract for the portion of the public buildings already commenced, was 13,778*l.*

17. The increase in the receipts in 1870 arose chiefly under the same heads as the decrease in 1869, but the rum duty continued to decrease.

18. The balance in the treasurer's hand and Colonial Bank, applicable to general purposes, which was 14,111*l.* on the 1st January, 1870, was 13,335*l.* on the 31st December, being reduced by only 776*l.*

19. The expenditure of the same three years, excluding the Public Building Fund, was:—

In 1868	-	-	-	-	-	£ 98,347
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	-	97,298
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	-	97,149

In 1867, the year before the stoppage of public works, it was 99,873*l.*

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20. The principal items of extraordinary expenditure, arising under the heads of molehead department, militia, public works and buildings and city improvements (other than the new public buildings), roads, and advances on loans or special grants, amounted in the above years:—

		£	
In 1867	to	19,772	Average £16,867.
" 1868	"	17,702	
" 1869	"	17,032	
" 1870	"	12,964	

21. Deducting this extraordinary expenditure from the totals shown in paragraph 19, the ordinary expenditure of the four years stands thus:—

		£	
In 1867	- - -	80,111	Average £80,026.
" 1868	- - -	75,645	
" 1869	- - -	80,266	
" 1870	- - -	84,185	

22. The comparative revenue and expenditure of each year, excluding the Public Buildings Fund, was:—

		Revenue.		Expenditure.
		£		£
In 1867	- - -	98,347	-	99,783
" 1868	- - -	99,521	-	93,347
" 1869	- - -	96,424	-	97,298
" 1870	- - -	96,322	-	97,149
Total	-	388,664	-	387,577

leaving a trifling balance in favour of the revenue. But during this period the operations of the Molehead Board have been at a standstill, and few public works of any consequence have been undertaken.

3. Local Revenues.

23. The revenue and expenditure of the several vestries varies but little from year to year. The total receipts were:—

		£
In 1869	- - - - -	21,142
" 1870	- - - - -	20,656

The expenditure was:—

		£
In 1869	- - - - -	21,526
" 1870	- - - - -	21,339

24. The chief objects of expenditure in these years were:—

		1869.		1870.
		£		£
Relief of the poor	-	6,987	-	7,141
Education	- - -	1,697	-	1,228
Church expenses	-	2,707	-	2,350

The parochial expenditure on education is supplementary to that provided by the Legislature, and disbursed by the Education Committee.

25. The revenue raised and expended by the Road Commissioners, independent of the grants made to them by the Legislature, which amounted in 1870 to 5,450*l.*, was :—

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In 1869	-	-	-	-	-	£	s.	d.
						6,911	17	2
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	-	7,001	2	4

This revenue is derived from the following sources :—

Land, rated at 9 <i>d.</i> per acre	-	-	acres	101,182
Tax on rents, at 1½ <i>d.</i> per £; amount	£911	9 <i>s.</i>	8½ <i>d.</i>	
Horses, at 6 <i>s.</i> each	-	-	No.	1,909
Mules, at 3 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> each	-	-	-	8,287
Asses, at 2 <i>s.</i> each	-	-	-	804
Wheels of burthen, at 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> each	-	-	-	7,666
„ pleasure, „ „	-	-	-	3,948

The extent of main roads in the Island is 274 miles; of cross roads, 203 miles.

4. Direct Taxation.

26. The following comparison of the direct and indirect taxation of the Island, including general and parochial, and not confining the former to land and houses, will possess interest. The figures are taken from the revenues of 1869 in the several Windward Islands, and from the estimates of Jamaica for 1869-70.

REVENUES.

	Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	Percentage Proportion of Direct to the whole.
	£	£	£	
Barbados - -	41,006	87,808	128,814	32
St. Vincent - -	7,135	22,781	29,916	25
Grenada - -	7,225	19,983	27,208	26
Tobago - -	2,617	7,084	9,701	27
St. Lucia - -	4,443	15,549	19,992	22
Jamaica - -	100,212	301,522	401,734	25

5. Public Debt.

27. Still none. The balance of general revenue at the close of the year was 13,335*l.*, being only 776*l.* less than at the beginning. The balance of the Public Buildings Fund on the 31st December was 13,778*l.*

6. Military Expenditure.

28. The expenditure incurred by Her Majesty's Government for military establishments exhibits a considerable decrease, viz. :—

In 1868	-	-	-	-	-	£
						87,428
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	-	90,887
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	-	77,258

Of the last amount 6,985*l.* was on account of works and buildings.

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Nothing was expended on account of the militia in 1870, the arms having been kept in order by the police.

7. *Public Works.*

29. The expenditure on public works during the year amounted to 7,519*l.*, of which 2,509*l.* was on account of the new public buildings. Besides these, the principal works commenced or put in hand during the year were the new bridge and the repairs of the molehead. No progress was made in deciding the question of harbour works.

8. *Legislation.*

30. The principal Acts passed during the year were:—

1. To consolidate the Acts for regulating the trade of the Island.
2. To establish a Board of Molehead Commissioners.
3. To appropriate casual revenues arising from escheated estates.
4. To authorize the Bridgetown Water Company to extend their works.
5. To amend the law relating to promissory oaths.
6. To alter the Petty Debts Act passed in 1869.
7. To regulate the landing and storing of petroleum.
8. To encourage the laying down of water-works in the rural districts.
9. To amend the law for the encouragement of submarine telegraphs.
10. To provide aid towards the Harrison's Free School.
11. To provide aid toward the Codrington College Grammar School.
12. To provide a superannuation fund for officers in the public service.
13. To form the police magistracies into districts.
14. To grant public aid to the Church of the United Brethren (Moravians).

9. *Political Franchise, Councils, and Assembly.*

31. Major-General Munro, C.B., commanding Her Majesty's troops in this Island and throughout the West Indies, was appointed a member of the Council. There was no general election in 1870. The Assembly elected on 8th November, 1869, expired at that date in 1870. The new election did not take place until the 16th January, 1871.

10. *Population.*

32. There was a decrease in the number of baptisms and deaths, the former of which may be accounted for by the emigration which has been in progress, more or less active, for some years past, and which, it has been ascertained, has seriously disturbed the normal condition

of the population; and the latter may be attributed partly to the same cause, and partly to an improvement in the sanitary condition of the Island, which was to be expected from the cessation of the protracted drought, and the consequent amelioration of the circumstances of the labouring classes. The share which these and other causes may have had in influencing the progress of the population cannot be accurately stated on account of the much-to-be-regretted absence of any proper system of registration. The latter inference is fairly drawn from the fact that while there has been a considerable increase of burials in the city of Bridgetown and the surrounding parish, there has been a large diminution in most of the rural districts, viz. :—

	1869.	1870.
Bridgetown and Parish of St. Michael	1,280	1,455
Rest of Island	2,572	1,990

BAPTISMS.

In 1868	-	-	-	-	6,563
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	6,359
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	6,028

MARRIAGES.

In 1868	-	-	-	-	637
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	603
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	620

BURIALS.

In 1868	-	-	-	-	3,924
„ 1869	-	-	-	-	3,852
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	3,445

33. I have lately had occasion to point out in what respects the above return of baptisms and burials is likely to differ from a correct return of births and deaths. I am enabled on this occasion to submit a summary of an abstract prepared by the officer whose duty it is to make an alphabetical index of all baptisms and burials, digested from the parochial registers for 1870, which confirms this statement, and contains some useful information.

34. His abstract shows a total of 6,667 instead of 6,028 baptisms, being a difference of more than 10 per cent. Of these,

4,706	were of children born in the year	1870
1,726	„	1869
55	„	1868
27	„	1867
74	„	1866 to 1850
14	„	adults
65	no age was recorded	

Total - 6,667

FABRADO.

35. Of 3,486 burials recorded, which differs only by an excess of 41 over the above return,

1,120 were stated to be under 1 year			
718	"	"	from 1 to 5
112	"	"	5 " 10
81	"	"	10 " 15
181	"	"	15 " 20
246	"	"	20 " 30
162	"	"	30 " 40
159	"	"	40 " 50
171	"	"	50 " 60
198	"	"	60 " 70
183	"	"	70 " 80
132	"	"	80 " 90
35	"	"	90 " 100
8	"	"	- - 100
4	"	"	- - 105
1	"	"	- - 106
1	"	"	- - 110
1	"	"	- - 120
28 had no age specified			

Total - 3,486

36. The number stated above to have reached a very advanced age is not altogether incredible, as, by the census of the present year, the number of persons alive above 100 years old was 21, besides perhaps some out of 19 whose ages were not stated.

37. The percentage of burials at each age was as follows:—

Per cent.		Per cent.	
Under 1 year	- 32.1	50 to 60	- 4.9
1 to 5	- 20.6	60 " 70	- 5.7
5 " 10	- 3.3	70 " 80	- 5.2
10 " 15	- 2.4	80 " 90	- 3.7
15 " 20	- 3.8	90 " 100	- 1.0
20 " 30	- 7.1	Above 100	- 1.1
30 " 40	- 4.6		
40 " 50	- 4.5	Total	- - - 100.0

38. The proportion of burials of children under 1 year of age to the baptisms of infants born in 1870 was 23.8, and to those of infants born in 1869 and 1870 it was 15.1 per cent.

39. The percentage proportion of burials to the population living at the same ages, according to the census of 1871 was as follows:—

Per cent.		Per cent.	
Under 1 year	- 19.4	40 to 50	- 1.4
1 to 5	- 3.1	50 " 60	- 2.1
5 " 10	- 0.5	60 " 70	- 4.7
10 " 15	- 0.4	70 " 80	- 8.7
15 " 20	- 0.6	80 " 90	- 29.0
20 " 30	- 0.9	90 " 100	- 21.3
30 " 40	- 1.0	Above 100	- 48.0

40. I have as yet been unable to compare these results with the mortality tables of other countries and islands similarly situated. I

hope to have obtained the materials for such a comparison before I report upon the census. Meanwhile it is apparent that the mortality among young children calls for examination, and it is not premature to report that the census reveals important and unexpected features, which appear to result from a larger emigration, especially of males, than was supposed to have taken place, and which has reduced the actual population of the Island from the estimated number of 180,000 to the computed number of 161,594.

11. *Education.*

41. The number of aided schools reported in the Blue Book with the number of scholars is,

	Schools.	Scholars.
Public and Church of England	120	10,610
Wesleyan	5	484
Moravian	16	1,475
Total	141	12,569

These figures show a small reduction in the number of schools, and a slight increase in the number of scholars.

42. During the past year the Legislature has evinced a very liberal disposition to aid middle-class education. It has voted a considerable sum towards resuscitating the Harrison Trust Schools, which had fallen into decay; and it has contributed a similar assistance to the Codrington College Grammar School.

43. An effort which I made to enlarge the sphere and increase the usefulness of the Codrington College, by affiliating it with some British University, and thus rendering it capable of conferring degrees as well as testamurs, by appointing additional professors, and aiming at making it a collegiate institution for the surrounding islands, and not, as at present, a small theological school, did not meet with the sympathy of the trustees, and appears to have been entirely misunderstood by the late Principal, to whom my suggestions were referred, and whose opinion is generally supposed to have deserved weight with the trustees. The attention of the Educational Committee is being specially directed to the establishment and extension of infant schools.

12. *Gaols and Crime.*

44. The number of committals in 1869 showed an increase of 30 per cent. above that of 1868, from 3,380 to 4,333. In 1870 the number has diminished in a corresponding proportion, and was the same as in the prosperous year of 1868, viz. 3,388. The adoption of a system of prison discipline, enforced by the use of the treadmill in the principal convict prison at Glendairy, and of shot-drill in that and the other prisons, is producing a good effect. This is attested in a remarkable manner by the diminution in the number of "recidives." In 1869 the proportion of those who had been committed once, or more frequently, was no less than 39 per cent.; in 1870 it was reduced to 22. Of offenders who had been committed once before, the proportion in 1869 was 17 per cent.; in 1870 it was only 8 per cent.

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Of the more hardened offenders, who had been committed three times or more, the proportion was reduced from 13 to 11 per cent.

Trade and Shipping.

45. I have in previous Reports deprecated any positive conclusions being drawn from the trade returns previous to 1869. The returns, however, of that year and 1870 are sufficiently correct. Those for the two previous years are added for comparison, subject to the above caution.

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS.

	£
In 1867 - - - - -	989,503
„ 1868 - - - - -	1,134,257
„ 1869 - - - - -	1,026,220
„ 1870 - - - - -	1,069,867

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS.

	£
In 1867 - - - - -	1,245,501
„ 1868 - - - - -	1,269,674
„ 1869 - - - - -	935,424
„ 1870 - - - - -	973,020

QUANTITIES AND VALUE OF MUSCOVADO SUGAR EXPORTED.

	Quantities.	Value.
	Hbds.	£
In 1867 - - - - -	51,304	800,970
„ 1868 - - - - -	58,250	857,250
„ 1869 - - - - -	32,150	479,550
„ 1870 - - - - -	39,360	591,990

46. It is customary to measure the crop of the year by the quantity of sugar exported. But what is called the “offal crop,” consisting of molasses and rum, must be taken into consideration. In the above four years the value of the quantities of that crop exported, independent of those consumed in the Island, which are by no means inconsiderable, especially of rum, which is not usually exported, amounted to a large percentage upon the value of the sugar crop, viz. :—

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF

	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Proportion of Molasses and Rum to Sugar.
	£	£	£	
In 1867 - - -	800,970	112,027	1,522	14
„ 1868 - - -	857,250	137,450	885	16
„ 1869 - - -	479,550	160,569	1,244	33
„ 1870 - - -	591,990	98,406	4,063	17
Average - -	682,440	127,113	1,978	19

47. Besides sugar, molasses, and rum, the exports of colonial produce are insignificant. In the last two years they averaged 7,284*l.*, the principal articles being empty packages, which are not really a colonial produce, and lime. The remainder consists of the

transit trade, i.e. merchandise imported chiefly from the United States, Great Britain, and British North America, and re-exported to British Guiana and the neighbouring West Indian Islands. The amount of this trade in the last two years has been :—

BARBADOS.

In 1869	-	-	-	-	-	£ 287,444
„ 1870	-	-	-	-	-	270,599

It concerns the merchants and Legislature of Barbados to take care, by the exemption of this class of goods from all unnecessary or excessive charges, commercial and fiscal, to prevent the establishment of the electric telegraph from injuring this branch of the trade of the Island. If charges are kept low, the telegraph is likely to increase the present trade with the Island as a central depôt for foreign goods.

48. The direction of the trade is shown in the following summary of the value of imports and exports in 1870 :—

	Imports.		Exports.
	£		£
United Kingdom	- - 413,908	-	544,455
British Colonies	- - 151,252	-	295,081
Foreign Countries	- - 504,706	-	133,588

One-half of the imports from the British Colonies consists of lumber, staves, and fish from the British North American Provinces. Two-thirds of the exports are distributed among the West Indies and British Guiana. Two-thirds of the imports from foreign countries consist of provisions, lumber, &c., from the United States; the other third consisted chiefly in 1870 of guano from Peru, and mules from South America. Of the exports to foreign countries five-sixths were shipped to the United States, the rest chiefly to foreign West Indies.

49. The destination of the sugar and molasses during the last two years has been :—

	1869.		1870.
	£		£
To United Kingdom	- - 424,769	-	525,840
„ United States	- - 134,724	-	97,791
„ British North America	- 76,944	-	64,293
„ Other Countries	- - 3,881	-	2,626

50. As the returns of shipping may be depended upon for 1870, the following particulars are noticed, which will afford a good general view of the commercial relations of the Island. There is but one port of entry, Bridgetown, in Carlisle Bay. Of vessels entered, there were :—

	No.		Tonnage.		Average size.
British	- - 1,025	-	97,442	-	95 tons.
Foreign	- - 236	-	41,093	-	174 „
Total	- 1,261		138,535		269 „

Of the total number, 121, of 14,674 tons, were in ballast. The majority of the latter were chiefly from the West Indies.

51. The difference in the size is owing to the large number of

BARRATOS. schooners and small craft engaged in the intercolonial trade. This is shown in the following statement:—

ENTERED.**From West Indies and Guiana:—**

	No.	Tons.	Average size.
British - - -	777	39,055	50 tons.
Foreign - - -	76	3,801	50 "

From other Countries:—

British - - -	247	58,285	236 "
Foreign - - -	143	35,216	246 "
Whalers - - -	18	2,178	121 "

CLEARED.**To West Indies and Guiana:—**

	No.	Tons.	Average size.
British - - -	875	57,270	65 tons.
Foreign - - -	180	30,727	170 "

From other Countries:—

British - - -	152	39,982	263 "
Foreign - - -	43	9,392	219 "
Whalers - - -	16	1,911	119 "

Some of the above differences are caused by larger vessels, after bringing cargoes from other countries, leaving for other of the West Indies, and by large foreign vessels, seeking, going on to St. Thomas, with the same object.

52. The course of trade is further illustrated by the following percentage of British and foreign tonnage arriving and clearing in ballast:—

ARRIVED.

	With Cargoes.	In Ballast.
British - - -	85·8 per cent.	14·2 per cent.
Foreign - - -	98·1 "	1·9 "

CLEARED.

British - - -	78·0 "	22·0 "
Foreign - - -	44·0 "	56·0 "

53. Of the total tonnage, there arrived from each country as follows:—

	Per cent.
United States - - -	about 23
United Kingdom - - -	" 17
British West Indies - - -	" 16
British North America - - -	" 10
British Guiana - - -	" 10
Buenos Ayres - - -	" 5
Peru - - -	" 5
All other Countries - - -	" 14
Total - - -	100

A similar summary of the onnage of vessels clearing for each country is somewhat disturbed by the number of those which go to St. Thomas seeking :—

	Per cent.
British West Indies - - -	about 28
Foreign " - - -	" 27
United Kingdom - - -	" 19
United States - - -	" 9
British Guiana - - -	" 8
British North America - - -	" 6
Other Countries - - -	" 3
Total - - -	100

54. Of the vessels clearing outwards, a larger proportion were in ballast than of those entering :—

	No.	Tonnage.
Entered - - -	121	14,674
Cleared - - -	209	44,948

Of the tonnage which entered,

70 per cent. was - - -	British
21 " " - - -	American
4 " " - - -	French
5 " " - - -	Other

General Remarks.

55. In the commencement of this Report I pointed out the remarkable approximation between the rainfall and the sugar crops of 1869 and 1870, and in two corresponding years. In concluding my annual Report last year, I estimated the crop of 1870, upon a rainfall of 47 inches in 1869, at 38,000 hhds. But the rainfall was 48·52 inches, which would add 1,200 hhds. (at the rate of 800 hhds. for each inch) to the estimate, making a total of 39,160 hhds. The actual export was 39,360 hhds. The approximation is so close as to go far towards proving the correctness of the formula.

56. The rainfall of 1870 was 60·17 inches, nearly two inches above the average. The crop of 1871, according to the same rule, should be 48,160 hhds. It has reached 53,679 hhds. up to the present date, and will probably not stop short of 54,000 hhds. The crop has proved unexpectedly large. The public estimate did not exceed 50,000. I attribute the large excess to the equal and favourable distribution of the rain during the latter half of 1870, and to the great dryness during the time of making the crop of the present year. These favourable circumstances would justify an increase over the average of 800 hhds. to the inch. An increase to the maximum yield yet observed, which was 886 hhds. to an inch after the very small rainfall of 1858, would bring it to within 500 hhds. of the yield. This crop may therefore be taken to be an exceptionally good one, having only been exceeded in the years 1866 and 1868, as regards actual quantity, and not having been exceeded in any as regards the proportion of the crop to the rainfall.

BARRADOS.

57. I had proposed to add some further information in this year's Report regarding the rainfall of the Island. But I have found my materials, and the conclusions to be drawn from them, increase so much in extent and importance, that I must adopt a different channel for recording the information.

58. At the close of 1870 the prospects of the following year were favourable, and notwithstanding a great want of rain in the first seven months, they have maintained their character generally up to the present time. It will be safe to predict that, if nothing untoward should happen, the crop of 1872 will also be a good one.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON, Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor RENNIE
to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 80.)

Government House, St. Vincent,

SIR,

September 8, 1871.

THE Blue Book for 1870, which I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency in duplicate, comprises a period long antecedent to my arrival in this Colony, and the Report thereon is therefore made by the Colonial Secretary.

I only assumed the Government in June last, and had I attempted to review the working and prospects of the Colony for the past year, I should have done so from experience gained at a later period, and thus have forestalled to a certain extent the Report that will be required a few months hence in considering the Blue Book of the present year.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. H. RENNIE.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1
in No. 8.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

SIR,

St. Vincent, September 6, 1871.

In placing the Blue Book for 1870 before your Excellency, I append, in compliance with your suggestions, a few remarks upon it.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The general revenue for the year (22,365*l.*) was not quite as much as that for 1869; this was partly owing to diminished imports, but chiefly to the fact that the operation of the new Excise Act of 1869 brought into the revenue of that year a considerable amount of

duty on rum consumed in the previous year, while in 1870 the duty received was confined to the consumption of the year. St. VINCENT.

The expenditure for the general service of the year (21,793*l.*) was greater than in 1869. This was caused by an addition to the establishments in the appointment of the Colonial Engineer, by grants to the several religious denominations, and by a special grant for compensation to those persons whose houses were pulled down to prevent the spread of the fire which occurred in Kingstown in 1866.

The actual balance at the credit of the general revenue at the close of the year was 6,627*l.*; in addition to which sums of 1,237*l.* and 98*l.* were due to it by the Immigration and Town Funds.

The fund specially raised under the Troops Tax Acts for the maintenance in this Island of Her Majesty's troops, amounted to 5,609*l.*; of which 5,055*l.* was expended for this service, and the balance lapsed into the general revenue.

The receipts of the Immigration Fund, including the sum of 867*l.* contributed from the general revenue, amounted to 2,779*l.* The expenditure, inclusive of 1,400*l.* remitted to Her Majesty's Emigration Commissioners in London towards the expenses in India of a cargo of Coolies then ordered, was 2,917*l.*; the difference being advanced from the general revenue as a loan.

The revenue of the town of Kingstown was 733*l.*, and the expenditure 555*l.*, showing a balance at credit of 178*l.*; but the sum of 555*l.* included 98*l.* which was paid on account of the Kingstown Water-works, and is chargeable at present to the general revenue as an advance, in part, of the loan to be made to the town for carrying out the works, which loan is to be recouped by rates to be levied on the town when the works shall be completed. The actual balance therefore of Kingstown revenue available for improvements in the town was 276*l.*

Public Debt.

The Colony had no debt. On the other hand, at 31st December, 1870, the Immigration Fund owed the general revenue 1,237*l.*, and the town of Kingstown owed it 98*l.*

Public Works.

No public works of importance were undertaken in 1870. The Governor's residence, at the Garden, was repaired and painted, but much was still left to be done to it. The trace of an ancient road through the interior of the Island, was partially explored and opened, but not sufficiently to allow of its being used for traffic. The most important action taken under this head was the sending of the first order to the Crown Agents for the pipes and other materials required for the Kingstown Water-works.

Legislation.

Sixteen Acts were passed during the Legislative Session; the most important of which were, the Act to provide water for Kingstown; the Act to grant a subsidy to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company (Limited), for the establishment of telegraphic communication between this Island, the other West India Colonies, America, and

ST. VINCENT. Europe; and the Hospital Act, which removed that institution from the direction of an irresponsible Board, and placed it under the immediate control of the Colonial Surgeon, who, in future, will be directly responsible to the Governor for its proper management.

Savings Bank.

There were 191 depositors in the Savings Bank during the year, and the sum of 1,329*l.* was on deposit at the end of 1870. The value of this bank is gradually being appreciated by the class for whom it was intended. Several Coolie immigrants have placed their savings in it.

Education.

The schools continued to show an increase in the number of scholars; and the sum granted for education from the public funds was more than equalled by the voluntary aid contributed.

Imports and Exports.

The imports for the year (137,474*l.*) were less in value by 7,892*l.* than in 1869; but the exports (221,139*l.*) were 29,395*l.* in excess. The value of the exported produce and manufactures of the Colony was 212,779*l.*

Agriculture.

The return of the produce of the Colony shows a marked improvement. The sugar crop exceeded that of 1869 by 1816 hogsheads, the quantity shipped being equal to 12,977 hogsheads. The rum exported was 2,158 puncheons, being 1,800 puncheons in excess of the previous year's exports; on the other hand the molasses was less by 2,146 puncheons. The great variation in these two productions arose in this way: in 1869 the owners of estates, in dread of the imagined severity of the new Excise Law, gave up the distillation of rum in 26 distilleries, and shipped their molasses in its raw state, but in 1870 these distilleries renewed operations, and the molasses was made into rum. The arrowroot exported was 10,438 barrels, being a decrease on the previous year of 1,115 barrels.

Crime.

The commitments to gaol were 387 as against 378 in 1869; but the majority of these were from the Magistrates' Courts for minor offences, and for debts under 5*l.*; the convictions for graver offences tried in the Superior Court were over 50 per cent. less than in the previous year.

Hospital.

The cases treated in the Colonial hospital were 207 in number; the daily average in hospital was 26; and the deaths were 22. This compares favourably with the previous year; the mortality, whether calculated upon the admissions, or upon the daily average or bed-rate, being less.

Conclusion.

From the preceding observations it will be seen that the results of the past year fully support Lieut.-Governor Berkeley's repeated statements that the Colony was gradually, but steadily, improving its position. With a continuous stream of immigration there is reason to hope that the impetus already given to agriculture will increase, and that the lands still lying waste and profitless will become arable and valuable fields. Much, however, of the progress of the Colony must be attributed to the beneficial change made in the Constitution in 1868, which brought the management of its finances, and the regulation of its public institutions, more immediately under the control of the Governor.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE,

Lieut.-Governor Rennie, Colonial Secretary.
&c. &c. &c.

P.S.—I annex, as has been customary, a copy of my Report and returns of births, marriages, and deaths for 1870.

E. L.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Enclosure 2
in No. 8.

Colonial Secretary's Office, St. Vincent,
March 6, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the Abstracts of the Registry of Births, Marriages, and Deaths for the year 1870.

The births were 1,738 in number, and the deaths 1,149; exhibiting an increase to the population of 589; distributed in the several districts as follows:—Kingstown, 107; Calliaqua, 170; Windward, 162; Leeward, 105; and the Grenadines, 45.

The birth rate was 4·9-10ths, the death rate 3·3-10ths per cent. of the population. The birth rate of the white population was 3·7-10ths, and the death rate 3·5-10ths per cent.

The proportion of illegitimate births in the year was nearly 60 per cent., being far in excess of last year's proportion, though slightly below what it had been in some previous years. In the Kingstown District the proportion was 55 per cent.; in the Calliaqua, 61; in the Windward, 61; in the Leeward, 60; and in the Grenadines, 63 per cent.

The proportion of deaths, in the year, of infants under one year of age was 26·2-10ths per cent.; of children of one, and under three years of age, 17·7-10ths; of three, and under five years of age, 4·1-10th; of five and under 15 years of age, 5·4-10ths; the mortality under 15 years being 53·6-10ths per cent.

The causes of death in the years 1869 and 1870 vary slightly. The prevalence of whooping cough in the last half-year of 1870 added largely to the deaths under the head of "diseases of the lungs, &c.," and more than accounts for the increased mortality in this year.

The marriages in 1870 exceeded by 39 the number registered in 1869. The Ministers of the Church of England solemnized 53½ per

ST. VINCENT. cent. of the whole number; the Ministers of the Church of Rome 10 per cent.; the Wesleyan Ministers 34 per cent.; and the Presbyterian Minister 2½ per cent.

The census to be taken on the 9th April now ensuing will afford fresh and reliable data on which to base fair calculations of the increase or decrease, and changes in the population of the Colony. As I mentioned in my Report on the abstracts of 1867, my calculations since the year 1865 have been based on the census of 1861, without the means of correction for the variations between that year and 1864. By the registration returns since 1864, calculated on the census of 1861, the population should now be 84,774; but it is reasonable to suppose that between 1861 and 1864 a proportionate increase was added; which, with the immigration that has taken place, ought to give as the result of the approaching census a gross population of about 87,500; and it will be interesting to see how far this calculation will be borne out.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **EDWARD LABORDE,**
Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General
of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No 9.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor FREELING to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 62.)

SIR, Government House, September 23, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of Grenada for 1870.

2. As I only arrived here in June last, I requested the Colonial Secretary to prepare a Report thereon, which I herewith forward.

3. I regret the lateness in transmitting these statistics, but the fault is not attributable to the Colonial Secretary's department but to that of the Treasury, as reported in my Despatch, No. 57, of the 8th June.

4. I shall for the future take care that the delay does not again occur.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **S. FREELING, Lieut.-Governor.**

Governor RAWSON, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in
No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

SIR,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grenada,
September 18, 1871.

I have the honour to present to your Excellency the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1870, with a Report thereon as follows,

Revenue.

The total revenue collected during the year amounted to 23,106*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, made up as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Customs - - - -	11,109	8	11
Tonnage - - - -	713	6	11
Excise - - - -	4,160	12	11
Licences - - - -	1,793	3	6
Fees and Fines - -	1,691	10	10
Post Office - - -	156	16	11
Assessed Taxes - -	3,175	6	7
Miscellaneous - - -	805	19	6
	<u>£23,106</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The arrears of revenue for the previous year, amounting to 1,878*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, made the total available sum for the service of the year 1870, 24,984*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*

The expenditure of the several establishments was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Civil - - - -	3,127	0	11
Judicial - - - -	3,669	9	4
Ecclesiastical - -	1,899	0	8
Legislature - - -	688	16	0
Education - - - -	1,278	19	2
Sanitary and Poor Relief -	2,695	14	6
Police and Gaols - -	3,110	3	2
Roads and Works - -	3,623	15	4
Pensions - - - -	54	8	4
Miscellaneous - - -	726	14	9
	<u>£20,824</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Leaving a surplus towards the credit of 1871, of 4,160*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

The subjoined Table exhibits a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last seven years, this period comprising the tenure of office of Major Mundy over the affairs of the Government of this Colony.

REVENUE.

1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20,095 8 10	20,341 12 2	21,139 16 0	19,983 13 9	21,740 19 7	23,140 14 0	23,106 1 1

EXPENDITURE.

17,234 13 5	19,756 10 4	21,203 17 5	25,686 19 12	21,920 9 0	21,265 12 8	20,824 2 2
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The taxation of the Colony for the ordinary purposes of revenue for 1870 is at the rate of 12*s.* 3*d.* per head.

GRENADA.

Local Revenues.

Immigration Fund.—The amount at the credit of this fund was 5,741*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* No immigrants were introduced in the Colony during the year.

The revenue and expenditure under this head of the last seven years were as follows :—

REVENUE.

1864.			1865.			1866.			1867.			1868.			1869.			1870.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
3,544	16	7	3,639	3	4	3,673	15	9	3,751	0	1	4,602	5	2	2,880	18	10	2,213	9	4

EXPENDITURE.

1,166	12	0	1,312	3	4	4,507	11	9	4,880	16	8	5,099	9	5	3,592	5	11	1,429	9	11
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The last batch of Coolies imported in this Colony was in 1866. In 1867, 1868, 1869, bounties were paid to those who had completed their term of industrial residence, and entitled to return passages to India, and willing to reindenture for a further term of five years.

In 1868, the first return batch of 76 Coolies was sent from this Colony.

The amount of savings deposited for remittance to India was 804*l.* 14*s.*

Water Fund.—The balance at the credit of this fund was 1,659*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* The annual revenue is at present derived from a tax on shipping, which amounts to 192*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; and the expenditure, amounting to 43*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*, is for superintending, repairing, and upholding the works.

In the year 1868, Lieut.-Governor Mundy called the attention of the Legislature to the inadequate supply of water in the town of St. George, and suggested the desirability of contracting a loan for introducing a wholesome supply of water from some other source by which the upper portion of the town and its immediate neighbourhood, which do not now derive the benefit, might be supplied.

A Bill for the purpose has been before the Legislature during the last year. It is now before the Assembly for certain amendments proposed by the Council to the Bill, and agreed to by the House; and I have no doubt by the time the surveyor arrives the amendments will be made, and the Bill brought into operation.

Public Debt.—The only debt due by the Colony is that contracted in July, 1858, from the Rock Life Assurance Company for 7,000*l.*, guaranteed by Imperial Statute, 11 & 12 Vict., cap. 130, redeemable in 20 years, bearing interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

This loan was raised for immigration purposes, and is secured on the revenue raised for that purpose; and in case of deficiency, on the general revenues of the Colony. One-twentieth part of this loan is annually set aside to establish a sinking fund. The amount of

stock to the credit of the sinking fund was 5805*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* on 31st December last.

Public Works, Roads, &c.—The amount expended under this head was 1,612*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* for repairs to the lunatic asylum, and other urgent repairs to some of the public buildings. The dilapidated state of the several Court-houses and other public buildings still call for early attention.

The sum of 2,011*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* appears also to have been applied to the repairs of 120 miles of public roads, equal to 15*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* per mile. This work, I regret to state, has only been inartistically and unsatisfactorily performed, and without doubt the money wastefully applied.

Legislation.

Little or no progress or improvement in legislation has been made during the year. The Legislature was only in session for 16 days, and passed four Acts, entitled as follows:—

No. 414, "An Act for the Payment of Costs in Proceedings instituted on behalf of the Crown in matters relating to the Revenue."

No. 415, "An Act to alter the Rate of Duty upon Rum."

No. 416, "An Act to reduce the Fees payable on the Indentures of Female Immigrants, and to repeal a portion of the 4th section of the Immigration Act, 1869."

No. 417, "An Act for the Appointment of a Surveyor of Public Works, and for the establishment of Local Road Boards."

The most important of these Acts is that for the appointment of a Surveyor of Public Works, a measure which has for several years, previous to its passing, been advocated by the Executive, and one which with an active and zealous man in the office cannot be otherwise than productive of much benefit and advantage to the community at large.

Population.

The estimated population to 31st December last was 37,795. The number of births registered was 1,481, and of deaths, 843, giving an increase of population of 638, or 1·71 per cent. The birth rate was 3·98 per cent., and the death rate, 2·26.

The number of marriages solemnized during the year was 206.

The following shows the birth and death rates for the last five years:—

BIRTHS.

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	
	4·16	4·05	4·14	4·43	3·98	

DEATHS.

	2·76	2·69	2·48	2·66	2·26	
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GRENADA.

Education.

A steady increase in the number attending the Grammar and Normal Schools, and in the several schools throughout the Colony receiving Government aid, appears, with the exception of those of the Roman Catholics, where a decrease is shown of 88 scholars as compared with the previous year. The total increase is 555 scholars.

The return shows an aggregate number of 2,529 scholars attending all the public schools in the Colony, being equal to 6.69 per cent. of the population. The sum of 1,278*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* is applied from the general funds towards the support of these schools, equal to 18 per cent. of the revenue.

The subjoined Table shows more readily the state and progress of the schools for the last seven years.

SCHOOLS.

Years.	Grammar School.	Normal School.	Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholic.	Total.
1864 - - -	Nil.	Nil.	729	375	761	1,865
1865 - - -	23	52	759	349	473	1,686
1866 - - -	7	46	641	267	457	1,418
1867 - - -	26	59	738	419	376	1,618
1868 - - -	30	58	928	345	431	1,792
1869 - - -	28	63	998	301	504	1,974
1870 - - -	30	87	1,355	571	506	2,529

Imports and Exports.

A large decrease in value of 43,898*l.* is apparent in the imports from the United Kingdom as compared with the previous year, and this would forcibly point to the impolicy of levying a high rate of duty. The ad valorem duty had for the year under review been doubled that of the preceding period. The decrease in imported articles appears principally in silks, linens, cottons, woollens, ironmongery, plantation stores, oils, grain, spirits, and wines.

There has been a slow but gradual increase in the productions of the Colony; the value of exports shows 5,213*l.* increase over that of 1869. The value of sugar, the principal product of the Island, is placed at 54,328*l.*; and it is remarkable, that of cocoa at 50,406*l.*

The following Tables show the direction of trade, and the value of imports and exports for the last seven years.

B.
ИМПОРТ.

Countries.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom -	£ 65,832 3 7	56,919 7 2	52,115 0 4	51,657 7 7	49,804 7 3	98,331 12 0	54,483 9 5
British Colonies -	43,155 11 4	44,899 18 0	56,164 4 9	44,005 11 7	44,191 12 4	41,589 4 0	35,914 12 11
United States -	11,807 8 2	9,917 1 2	12,140 8 4	13,840 14 0	12,507 8 2	32,836 16 8	10,796 9 6
Other foreign countries -	1,018 16 1	2,574 13 10	1,835 16 11	2,414 4 8	2,833 11 0	3,719 18 6	3,330 8 0
Totals -	£ 121,813 19 2	114,111 0 2	122,255 10 4	111,917 17 10	108,766 18 9	176,477 6 2	104,474 19 10

EXPORTS.

Countries.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom -	£ 140,370 14 3	97,476 18 8	98,687 12 11½	99,781 17 5	89,130 1 0	104,448 4 5	114,154 7 6
British Colonies -	4,900 12 7	14,335 18 11	12,569 1 1½	11,935 14 8	10,995 10 6	12,387 15 7	7,936 3 4
United States -	986 19 10	335 5 6	417 8 10	665 0 4	—	135 8 4	320 2 0
Other foreign countries -	7,006 14 10	5,897 7 11	1,563 2 9	3,796 18 6	3,769 13 9	5,000 6 3	4,773 18 0
Totals -	£ 153,215 1 6	118,045 11 0	113,237 5 8	116,199 10 11	108,895 5 3	121,971 14 7	127,184 10 10

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

The produce of whales captured within this Government was 11,520 gallons, valued at 1,296*l*.

In shipping there has been a decrease of 71 vessels, equal to 2,349 tons, entered during the year, and also a decrease of 17 vessels cleared; but an increase appears in tonnage of 2,950.

Agriculture.

Some improvement is apparent in the agriculture of the country. Several sugar estates having changed ownerships, are now in the hands of resident proprietors. A greater spirit is manifested in extending the cultivation of the sugar-cane. Estates are advancing in value, and a better tone is everywhere apparent in the agricultural prospects of the country; but to be successful, the progress of development must be accompanied by a steady supply to our labouring population.

No improvement, however, has yet been made in the manufacturing processes.

The extended cultivation of cocoa is shown in the yearly increased quantity exported from the Colony, the increase over that of 1869 being 191 tons.

The following return exhibits the quantity of sugar, cocoa, and cotton shipped during the last seven years.

Return of sugar, cocoa, and cotton shipped from 1864 to 1870:—

C.

Years.	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Cotton.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
1864 - -	4,492	477	77
1865 - -	3,928	577	182
1866 - -	5,360	637	87
1867 - -	4,005	761	133
1868 - -	4,084	743	22
1869 - -	3,254	889	59
1870 - -	3,880	1,080	169

Gaol and Prisons.

The Provost Marshal reports that “no further steps have been taken to continue the improvements begun in 1866. The prison affords ample accommodation for the number of prisoners committed, but the objectionable system of association prevails, and no attempt at a separate system can be made until the prison is reconstructed.” This state of the gaol has from time to time been forcibly brought to the attention and consideration of the Legislature by the Executive; and to continue the improvements required to adapt it to the separate system, the Legislature, in March, 1869, granted a further sum of 500*l*. towards the reconstruction of the gaol, but the work has been postponed from the absence of a properly qualified person to undertake it.

I herewith subjoin a return of convictions of the Supreme Court and of Magistrates for the last seven years, as well as of debtors.

D.
RETURN OF CONVICTIONS.

Years.	Supreme Court.		Magistrates.		Total.	Debtors.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		
1864 - -	16	1	171	82	220	18
1865 - -	8	5	152	41	206	30
1866 - -	16	1	178	36	231	17
1867 - -	16	1	153	39	209	25
1868 - -	12	1	122	27	162	32
1869 - -	13	2	115	31	161	29
1870 - -	14	..	140	53	207	6

Conclusion.

As the period embraced in this Report about closes with the administration of this Government by Lieut.-Governor Mundy, I hope it may not be out of place to bring under notice some of the several measures of importance brought into operation under his administration.

During this period he succeeded in replacing the educational system on the basis which it had some time before occupied, and from which it had been allowed to lapse. The departments of the Treasury, Post Office, and Police Magistracy throughout the Colony, have also been satisfactorily placed on a footing of permanent efficiency, as well as the whole civil list of the country.

The system for the registration of births and deaths. The regulation of weights and measures, in uniformity with those of the United Kingdom, have been accomplished. A code of criminal laws, in adaptation of that of the mother-country, established. An amended and consolidated Immigration Act, under which the objections of the Imperial Government to the continuance of immigration to the Colony have been removed, and immigration from India again permitted to be resumed. The Act for the appointment of a Surveyor of Public Works, which had long since been forcibly urged upon the Legislature as a measure urgently required for the purpose of keeping in proper and scientific repair the public roads and buildings. The establishment of telegraphic communication with these Islands and Great Britain, recently passed after much opposition, which since 1864 he recommended to the Legislature as a scheme worthy its consideration. The advantages to be derived by the commercial and other interests of the Island, he stated, would more than compensate the outlay required.

Of other measures of prominent importance recommended by him, which have not yet been brought into operation, is the consolidation, republication, and revision of our laws, by which, among other important statutes, the Act for the Administration of Justice in the Supreme Court of Judicature might be simplified. The revision of the Board of Health Act, and making provision for the sanitary condition of the dwellings of the inhabitants, for providing medicines and other necessaries, and additional medical practitioners in case of any epidemic disease appearing in the Island. The condition of the

GRENADA.

gaol, which requires reconstruction to enable the separate system to be adopted. The abolition of imprisonment for debt, and making provision for the relief of insolvent debtors. The want of an abundant supply of water into the town of St. George, for the promotion of the public health, and the protection of the town in case of fire.

* * * * *

In conclusion, it is satisfactory to note that crime of a serious description is on the decrease, the conduct of the population peaceable and orderly, and the public health during the past year satisfactory.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. MITCHELL, Colonial Secretary.

Lieut.-Governor Freeling,
&c. &c. &c.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RAWSON, C.B., to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 45.) Windward Islands, Barbados,
MY LORD, November 28, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book for the Colony of Tobago for 1870, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in
No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

Lieut.-Governor KORTRIGHT to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 62.)
SIR, Government House, Tobago, November 9, 1871.
I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue amounted to 12,177*l.* 14*s.* In this amount is, however, included the duty on exports levied solely for immigration purposes, amounting to 1,061*l.* 9*s.* The actual revenue for general purposes was 11,116*l.* 5*s.*, showing an increase of 1,215*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* as compared with the preceding year. There was a larger trade in 1870 than in 1869, and the Act imposing a duty on rum consumed

in the Colony, which yielded only 231*l.* 6*s.* in 1869, expired, and a licence on stills was substituted, which produced 405*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in 1870.

The expenditure for the year for general purposes was 10,762*l.* 2*s.* 7½*d.*, in excess of the expenditure of 1869 by 947*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

Public Debt.

The last instalment of the hurricane loan, amounting to 601*l.* 9*s.*, originally 20,000*l.*, contracted for the relief of the sufferers in the hurricane of 1847, was paid to her Majesty's Government in 1870, and the Colony is now free of debt.

Public Buildings.

No works of any importance were undertaken in 1870. The usual necessary repairs were made to several public buildings, and some of the bridges were improved by increasing their width.

Legislation.

Eight Acts were passed in the two sessions of the Legislature. The most important were those for providing funds for the service of the Government for 1871. The Act, 33 Vict., cap. 13, "An Act to raise a Duty on Exports, and to apply the same for the purposes of Immigration," may also be regarded as a measure of great importance to the interests of the Colony.

Political Franchise.

The Franchise Act was passed on the 8th June, 1860. The qualification for a representative for the House of Assembly is a seisin in fee of real property in his own right or that of his wife, or possession of a clear yearly income of 150*l.* The qualification of a voter is seisin or possession of real property within the parish or town for which election shall be held valued on the valuation roll at an annual rental or value of 10*l.* and upwards. Managers or overseers occupying a house on an estate valued at an annual rental of 150*l.* are entitled to vote.

There are nine electoral divisions which return sixteen representatives. The number of registered voters at last election was 215, of whom 91 voted. In the parish of St. John the two representatives were returned by the vote of one person.

Education.

There are twelve week-day and infant schools in connection with the Church of England, and seven Sunday-schools. The number of scholars attending the week-day and infant schools is 589, and the average attendance in the Sunday-schools 427; making a total of 1,016. The Moravians have 7 schools, and return the attendance at 885.

The number of Wesleyan schools is also 7, with an attendance of 518 scholars. The total number of children receiving education, exclusive of those attending Sunday-schools, is 1,992.

The remarks made by the Rev. Mr. Hutson, in page 175 of the

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Blue Book, are calculated, without an explanation, to mislead with respect to the grant of the Colonial Government for educational purposes. Mr. Hutson remarks that the Colony ought to give at least 100*l.* for the Church of England schools, and that he only gets 30*l.* for the support of four schools. The Colonial grant is 300*l.* a year, equally divided among the three religious denominations. Mr. Hutson may receive only 30*l.* as his share of the grant; but it must be observed that he has charge of the schools in two parishes only, St. Andrews and St. George, and 70*l.* a year is the sum appropriated to the schools in the other five parishes of the Colony.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in 1870 was 61,448*l.*, on which the gross amount of duty received was 6,675*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

The value of exports, produced and manufactured in the Colony, was 82,377*l.* of British, foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufacture. The value is estimated at 239*l.*, making a total of 82,616*l.*

Agriculture.

I feel justified in stating that a marked improvement has taken place in agriculture. The cane cultivation has been extended, and the manufacture of sugar has been conducted on a more careful and scientific principle than in previous years. The value of machinery imported in 1870 was 5,801*l.* In 1869 it was 2,009*l.*

Gaols and Prisons.

There is only one prison, named the Common Gaol of Tobago, at Fort King George, Scarborough. The total number of prisoners committed during the year was 226. Six of them were white men; no white women were committed. Of the males, black or coloured, 64 could read, and 118 could not read. Fourteen males could read, and twenty-four were entirely uneducated. The cases of sickness did not amount to more than thirty-eight during the year, few of a serious character. One death only occurred.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE
GOVERNMENT to Governor RAWSON, C.B.

(No. 62.)
SIR,

Government Office, St. Lucia,
August 2, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of
St. Lucia for the year 1870; and I subjoin a Report upon the condi-
tion and prospects of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. W. DES VŒUX,
Administrator of the Government.

Governor Rawson, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Enclosure in
No. 11.

REPORT.

Legislation.

1. Five Ordinances were passed during the year, of which two only
deserve notice here.

2. Ordinance No. 4 is a Quarantine Law, embodying the provi-
sions of the Model Act recommended by the Secretary of State for
general adoption, together with others required by local circumstances.

3. Ordinance No. 5 is a measure passed in consequence of an
insurrection in Martinique, and the subsequently disturbed state of
that Colony. The people of the two islands being closely connected
by ties of blood and nationality, strengthened by frequent intercourse
and intermarriages, no disturbance can take place in the one without
corresponding excitement on the other. The landing here of a
number of armed refugees gave some cause to fear the spread of
disaffection. While the law is in force all persons on their arrival
from Martinique are required under penalty to report themselves at
the nearest police-station, and to deliver up their arms. The law can
be suspended, or brought into force by resolution of the Governor in
Council.

4. Owing to my absence from the Colony on other duty during
several months in the latter part of the year, a number of measures
which, under other circumstances, would probably have been intro-
duced in 1870, were postponed until this year. On this account
their particular description belongs to the next Annual Report. But
as it is some months since they passed the Legislature, and some of
them are already in successful operation, it may be well to explain
now their scope and principal objects. They include, among others—

5. (1) An Ordinance to alter the constitution and amend the
practice of the Tribunal of Appeal, the Court in which are heard
appeals from the decisions of the magistrates. The judgeship of the

St. Lucia.

Court is abolished as a separate office, and is henceforward to be held ex officio by the Chief Justice. Among other provisions respecting the proceedings of the Court is one precluding, except in certain specified cases, the production of fresh evidence in appeal; a right which, as hitherto unrestricted, tended to encourage perjury.

6. (2) An Ordinance regulating the rights and duties of masters and servants. The law hitherto in force on this subject was established by the Orders in Council, passed with immediate reference to the recently emancipated slaves in several Crown Colonies. The new law, while embodying all their more important provisions, contains a number of others adapted to the needs of the present time, and suggested either by general experience or local circumstances. It is hoped that misconduct and breaches of faith on the part of both employers and employed will be more effectually checked and more surely punished. I may add that this law, which has been already five months in operation, appears to be fulfilling these objects, and is, I am informed, giving general satisfaction.

7. (3) An Ordinance intended to reduce the legal costs connected with judicial sales of real property. The excessive amount of these costs had for many years formed a subject of general complaint, and had been repeatedly noticed in the Legislature. They rendered small properties almost worthless as securities for money, and seriously depreciated the value of all. A return furnished by the Provost Marshal shows that they have occasionally amounted to more than 100 per cent. of the proceeds of sale, leaving nothing at all even for mortgagees. In the five years ending 1867 their average proportion to the whole proceeds was 27 per cent., and, four large properties excluded, 44 per cent.

8. The provisions of the new measure I leave for description in the next Annual Report; but I may mention here that they are already producing effect. The creditors of an estate which was sold last month by order of the Court, and realized 6,500*l.*, will receive about 500*l.* more than they would have done in former years. The public treasury also will gain to the extent of 90*l.*

9. (4) An Ordinance providing for a new office, of which the incumbent is termed "Colonial Trustee." This office is to unite the functions hitherto belonging to the "Administrator of Crown Property" with others previously discharged, or intended to be discharged, by persons appointed at the discretion of the Court. The duties comprise the charge of all Crown property, including vacant successions; and the administration of the estates of bankrupts, unrepresented absentees, and, in certain cases, of lunatics and other insane persons. It is anticipated under the new law the Government and others interested will be more secure than heretofore of obtaining their rights. At all events, there will be an opportunity of seeing accounts, and of learning the manner in which assets have been disposed of.

10. (5) An Ordinance granting an annual subsidy of 500*l.* to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company (Limited). The subsidy is to continue for ten years, conditionally upon the maintenance of effective communication with the neighbouring islands and with the main land.

11. (6) An Ordinance to induce continued residence on the part of the Indian immigrants who have commuted for bounty their right to free return passage. By this law the immigrants are offered a renewed right of return passage for themselves and their children after eight years' further residence. No contract is required on their part beyond an undertaking to remain in the Colony, to register themselves periodically, and to occupy themselves solely in agricultural pursuits. It is hoped that the above offer will not only retain all the Indian immigrants who are still here, but will induce the return of others who have left in the expectation (I believe a vain one) of acquiring in other Colonies the right which they are now offered here.

12. (7) An Ordinance establishing a Government Savings Bank. There was previously no institution of the kind in the Island.

13. (8) An Ordinance to provide for the better care of the sick poor, and for the regulation of out-door relief. The chief object of this law is to reduce the high rate of infant mortality adverted to in my Report for 1869. For this and other kindred purposes the medical staff of the Island is increased, and the officers are required to attend at fixed times and places, and to give gratuitous advice and medicine.

14. The general rate of mortality, though not high (being exclusive of still-births, between 23 and 24 in the 1,000), might also probably be reduced; for the Registration Returns show that of every eight persons who have died only one on the average has been attended by a medical man.

15. In order to effect this object the Ordinance contains, besides that mentioned above, a provision for auxiliary hospitals in the country districts, and regulations applicable to all hospitals for a new system of management and inspection. Under the new system the existing "charitable institutions" are intended to become hospitals in the modern sense, instead of, as they have heretofore been, mere asylums for the destitute and incurable. Persons of these classes will now be maintained as out-patients, or upon "out-door relief"; for which also new regulations are provided, both as to the manner of granting it, and the means of recovering the cost from natural supporters.

16. The cost of the new measure is made a charge upon the general revenue, and not upon local funds—an expedient which, though adopted for convenience and almost by necessity, may, I think, be justified on economical grounds. Where increase of population is, as here, so universally required, each life saved is a benefit to the whole community.

17. (9) An Ordinance to provide for the appointment of a colonial engineer, and for the due construction, care, and repair of public works, buildings, roads, and bridges.

18. (10) An Ordinance for the appointment of a colonial surveyor, and for the regulation of surveys.

19. The titles of the two last Ordinances sufficiently explain their scope and objects. As their provisions are very numerous, a fuller description must be postponed until the next Annual Report, to which it will rightly belong.

St. Lucia.

Revenue and Expenditure.

20. The following Table shows the revenue of the Colony in the years 1870 and 1869 respectively :—

	1870.			1869.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General Revenue - - -	15,869	0	7	14,982	19	0
Roads and Bridges Fund - -	1,647	10	10	1,256	0	6
Immigration Fund - - -	2,194	14	8	1,816	15	2
Education Fund - - -	606	1	5	719	6	1
Casual Revenue of the Crown -	153	0	3	205	8	2
Harbour Dredge Fund - -	161	9	10	161	19	0
	<u>£20,629 17 9</u>			<u>£19,142 7 11</u>		

21. The total revenue of 1870 was the largest ever raised in the Colony in any year of which we have a record, and shows an increase as compared with that of 1869 of 1,487*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, or at the rate of nearly 8 per cent., the taxation remaining the same. The items of general revenue which show the chief improvement are "import duties," "tonnage dues," "rum duty," and "licences," the increase being mainly owing to an unusually large sugar crop, sold for more than average prices. Fluctuations in the amount and value of this staple produce a great effect upon the import trade, and upon the consumption of excisable spirits in nearly all the West Indian Colonies. But that effect is likely to be here both greater and more immediate than elsewhere, because the proprietors being for the most part resident, the profits of cultivation are to a greater extent spent on the spot.

22. The large sugar crop was also the cause of the increased revenue of the roads and immigration funds, of which the latter is almost exclusively, and the former mainly supplied by an export tax on the produce of sugar estates.

23. The reduced income of the education fund is entirely owing to the small amount produced by the fines and penalties applied to this fund—a circumstance which, as indicating decreased or lessened gravity of offences, is by no means an unmixed evil.

24. The following Table shows the expenditure during the years 1870 and 1869 :—

	1870.			1869.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General Expenditure - - -	14,602	6	1	13,637	17	2
Roads and Bridges Fund - -	1,615	7	0	896	4	10
Immigration Fund - - -	2,319	15	3	1,293	2	5
Education Fund (exclusive of grant of 500 <i>l.</i> from General Revenue, included under General Expenditure) - -	919	9	0	403	19	5
Casual Revenue of the Crown -	5	10	0	400	0	0
Harbour Dredge Fund - -	86	19	11	116	19	5
	<u>£19,549 7 3</u>			<u>£16,748 3 3</u>		

There is thus in the expenditure of 1870 an excess as compared with that of 1869 of 2,801*l.* 4*s.*

25. The increased general expenditure was chiefly owing—1st, to more admissions into the hospitals, and more generous diet; and, 2ndly, to the reward for the destruction of poisonous snakes, first offered in 1870 and claimed to the extent of 326*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

26. The excess in the item "Roads and Bridges" is owing partly to repairs, necessitated by an unusually heavy rainfall following a long drought, and partly owing to improvements of an unusual kind on the roads. These were made on the suggestion of a competent civil engineer, who was on a visit to the Island.

27. "Immigration" cost more in 1870, on account of the payment of bounties in lieu of return passages to a number of immigrants whose terms of residence expired in that year. There were no payments of this kind in 1869, and as the total amount in 1870 was 1,102*l.*, the whole excess in the item is accounted for. The expenditure has been still larger this year, owing to the cost of forwarding to India the immigrants who declined to accept bounty.

28. The increased expenditure on education is unhappily more apparent than real. The actual increase was 188*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, and this was owing to the increased income of the Education Fund in the previous year. The difference between the above sum and the apparent increase (425*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*) is due to payments claimed in 1870 on account of services rendered in 1869.

29. Notwithstanding the increased expenditure the total balances of the various funds in the treasury at the close of 1870 was larger than for many previous years. They amounted in 1870 to 6,619*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; in 1869 to 5,641*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; and in 1868 to 4,451*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

Trade.

30. The value of exports in 1870 was 147,171*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, of which sum 146,000*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* represents the value of the produce of the Colony. This is an increase of 29,000*l.* (or about 21 per cent.) as compared with 1868, in which year the returns under this head were higher than in any previous year.

31. The following are the respective values of the articles sent to the United Kingdom:—

	£	s.	d.
Cassia Fistula - - - - -	87	0	0
Cacao - - - - -	2,794	4	8
Ginger - - - - -	3	16	0
Logwood - - - - -	227	10	0
Fish Oil - - - - -	365	0	0
Succades - - - - -	15	8	4
Molasses - - - - -	2,780	0	0
Muscovado Sugar - - - - -	128,788	0	0
Tortoise Shell - - - - -	135	0	0
Satin Wood - - - - -	51	0	0

Making a total value of - £135,246 19 0

32. The imports of 1870 were valued at 106,285*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; those of 1869 at 90,464*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*; of 1868 at 97,845*l.*, showing an increase under this head in 1870 of 15,380*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* as compared with 1869,

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and of 8,440*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* as compared with 1868, the latter year having, in the value of imports as well as of exports, surpassed all former years. The imports from Great Britain were valued in 1870 at 40,882*l.* 7*s.*; in 1869 at 35,443*l.* But these figures do not indicate the whole of the British products consumed. For of the 28,633*l.* worth of articles imported in the former year from Barbados, probably at least one-half had been brought thither from the United Kingdom. The balance of trade is, however, against England, inasmuch as the bulk of imported food comes from the United States; and tobacco, which is now consumed at the extraordinary rate of more than 3 lbs. per head of the population, comes chiefly from that country.

33. The number and tonnage of vessels entered at Castries (the only port of entry) during the years 1870 and 1869 was as follows:—

	Vessels.	Of total tons.
In 1870 - - - -	197	15,205
„ 1869 - - - -	185	14,743

(This, however, is excluding ten arrivals per month of English and French mail steamers.)

The increase in 1870 is due to the same cause adverted to under the head, “Revenue and Expenditure.”

Agriculture and Manufacture.

34. The sugar crop of 1870 proved, as anticipated in my last Report, to be the largest ever obtained in the Island. The following Table shows the total produce of sugar estates shipped in the years 1870, 1869, and 1868 respectively, the crop in this latter year having exceeded that of any former year.

	1870.	1869.	1868.
Sugar - { pounds } - { avoirdupois }	12,444,153	10,517,725	11,118,829
Molasses - { gallons }	153,000	205,300	191,400
Rum - { „ }	2,461	1,840	2,058

35. The decrease in the quantity of molasses is owing to a larger production of rum, which is for the most part consumed in the Island. The excise duty on this spirit amounted to 5,954*l.* in 1870; to 5,390*l.* in 1869; and to 5,680*l.* in 1868.

36. The increased production of sugar is owing rather to extended area of cultivation than to improvement of culture.

37. That less energy is shown in the latter respect is probably owing in a measure to the extraordinary fertility of the soil, which not uncommonly produces a crop from the same cane plants for twenty years in succession; whereas in most other countries the fields require to be planted every two or three years.

38. It is this fertility which has enabled planters with very limited capital to earn many of them competence, and some more than competence, on estates so small and so difficult of access that their being carried on at all without ruin is a marvel to strangers. The failures that have taken place here have been almost exclusively the result

of absenteeism—a luxury that a small estate can seldom support. But being better known abroad than the successes of others, they have cast upon the Island an undeserved discredit that has checked the employment of English capital. This evil has, however, not been entirely without compensation. The estates have now all passed into the hands of resident proprietors, whose personal supervision is felt each year more and more, and who are gradually acquiring a capital, promising even better results in the future.

39. The system of agriculture, as in most of the West India Islands, is somewhat rude. But signs of efforts to improve it are not altogether wanting. In 1869 only 264 tons of guano were imported; in 1870, 650 tons; and I may also mention that in the latter year a steam irrigating machine was seen in the Island for the first time. It was imported by an enterprising resident proprietor for use in the plain of Vieux Fort. The rainfall is there below the average, owing probably to the attraction of the clouds by the mountains of other districts, and is moreover said to be decreasing through the cutting down of forests on the neighbouring hills.

40. The returns of mileage under cultivation are not trustworthy. The magistrates, who make them, are compelled to be content for the most part with estimates from mere inspection; and such are apt to be wide of the mark. They are undoubtedly so in the present instance. The creation of the new office of Colonial Surveyor and Engineer may enable us in future years to obtain a nearer approximation to accuracy.

41. From these returns it would appear that in 1870 the number of acres in sugar-canes was little over 5,000, a considerable decrease by comparison with former years. But the general, and I am convinced, correct opinion of planters is to the effect that cane cultivation, instead of being contracted, has been year by year extended, and now covers a greater area than at any former time. Virgin soil is being broken for it in all directions; and while no estates have latterly been abandoned, some have been reclaimed, and others, which a few years ago grew little else but weeds and trees, are now yielding abundant crops. One proprietor has almost entirely, by extended cultivation, increased this year to 700 hogsheads the crop of estates which only three or four years ago yielded an average of only 250 hogsheads, and many others have made similar progress, though not in the same proportion.

42. But apart from these facts, another consideration shows that the estimate of 5,000 acres is within the mark. Duty was paid in 1870 on more than 10,000 hogsheads exported, which, if this estimate were correct, would be two hogsheads to each acre—a yield which, though common enough under a high state of cultivation, is incredible as the average of a whole colony where land is so little tilled as in St. Lucia. On this account the real number of acres in canes is probably nearer 7,000 than 5,000.

43. Besides extension of cultivation I am able to record a progress in manufacture which makes further improvement probable, and will certainly render it more easy. Steam power is gradually superseding all others for grinding purposes. Fourteen steam-mills were imported in 1870, of which seven replaced others that had been

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moved by wind, water, or cattle, and seven were destined for newly-opened estates.

44. I regret, however, that I cannot record any improvement in the quality of produce, which the limited supply of labour would alone render of more importance than increase of quantity. But there is another circumstance which may soon make a necessity what is now merely desirable—I mean the reduction of the sugar duties in England.

45. It is possible that the increased production stimulated by that measure will be only in proportion to the increased demand created by lower prices. If, however, it should prove otherwise, as indeed is the generally-received opinion among merchants, and there should be in consequence a general fall in prices, the chief sufferers would be the producers of inferior sugar, such as is almost exclusively exported from this Colony. For their margin of profit being smaller, they could less afford to lose any portion of it.

46. Fears on this head were becoming general among the planters last year, but have for the time subsided, in consequence of a rise in the market; and the indications of movement which they prompted have for the most part disappeared.

47. High prices have, however, almost invariably followed great European wars: and there may be at present another exceptional cause for them. Though high as regards the profit to the producer, they are yet by the reduction of the duty low to the consumer. Increased demand has probably been the immediate result of this cheapness, while the effects of the new stimulus to production have not yet had time to show themselves fully. If therefore the above fears had any ground at all, there appears no sufficient reason to justify their removal.

48. But whether the profits of agriculture and, as a consequence, the prosperity of the Colony are in danger or not, there can be no doubt that improvement in the quality of produce is of the first importance; and the only question to be solved is as to the means of improvement best suited to the circumstances of the Colony.

49. The estates here are for the most part too small to support singly expensive works, such as produce the crystallized sugar of Demerara; and on this account the co-operative system which has achieved extraordinary results in the neighbouring colony of Martinique, would appear to offer by far the best prospect of success.

50. That system, having as yet been introduced into no English West India Colony, is probably little known in England, and therefore a short description of it, as compared with that which is supplanted, may not be out of place.

51. Its chief distinctive feature is the entire separation of agriculture from manufacture. Though co-operation has proved useful for the introduction of the system, and has tended greatly to enhance its profits, it is not essential to it.

52. Before this innovation every sugar planter in the West Indies was also a manufacturer. He not only grew canes, but ground them and turned their juice into sugar.

53. Such a system cannot be otherwise than a wasteful one. If every farmer was also a miller and a baker, it may, I presume, be

taken as certain that wheat would be less abundant and bread worse and dearer, while the profits of production would be less. And yet the West India planter has combined occupations even more incongruous, as being singly more difficult. For the ordinary anxieties attending cultivation and manufacture are, in his case, complicated by peculiar difficulties connected with labour and climate; and, apart from these, even the "common process" of sugar-making involves no easy task. Though there have been other minor causes, no other than this undue complication of characters need be sought to account for general backwardness of agriculture and inferiority of produce.

54. It is true that great success has occasionally been achieved under this system, but must be taken to be in spite of it. Great losses can be directly traced to it; and the experience of Martinique goes to show how much greater profits might have been without it. Moreover, on large estates, as those of Demerara, the required division of labour does, in fact, partially take place. Though the supreme control of cultivation and manufacture is centered in a single person, the magnitude of operations admits of the exclusive superintendence of each by a responsible subordinate.

55. Under the Martinique system, however, the division of labour is complete. The planter is merely a planter, and sugar-making an entirely separate occupation. A central "Usine" manufactures the canes of a number of neighbouring estates, and pays for them by weight, irrespective of the quantity of sugar produced. So that the planter after delivering the raw produce has no further concern with it, and he is enabled to devote his capital and energy exclusively to the improvement of his cultivation.

56. The first factories were established under agreement as to full supplies of material with the neighbouring planters, who also furnished a considerable portion of the capital. But now others are in operation, which have dispensed with a part of this security, and which partially depend for supplies on the growers' self-interest. It was in fact taken for granted by their projectors that the planters would sell their canes rather than make sugar themselves. This calculation was more than justified by the event. Canes are, I am informed, now coming to these factories from most unexpected sources, and from distances of eight and ten miles.

57. Further proof than the above is scarcely needed to show that the planters are deriving benefit from the new system. Though the extent of that benefit cannot of course be known, a notion of it can be formed from the price given for the canes. I am informed that the lowest price offered by the usines is the market value of 5 lbs. of the best common-process sugar for every 100 lbs. of canes; and this is only 1 per cent. less on the average than is obtained by those planters who incur the risk, anxiety, and expense of manufacture.

58. There is, however, more definite knowledge as to the profits of the manufacturer, who so far deserves them in that he produces the best sugar yet exported from the West Indies. "The Usine de Francois," established in 1866, has in the last four years declared dividends as follows:—In 1867, 19 per cent.; in 1868, 37 per cent.; in 1869, 48 per cent.; and in 1870, 36 per cent.; the decrease in

St. Lucia. — the latter year being merely the result of the disasters in France, which receives the bulk of the Martinique sugars.

59. The new system, besides its intrinsic merits, has in operation developed a collateral advantage of no small importance. It has proved a powerful promoter of social order. The capital required for the factories being too large to be commonly furnished by individual capitalists, or even exclusively by the "monied classes," has in some cases been divided into small shares, which are largely held by negro labourers and peasant proprietors. Moreover, the factories themselves as supplying regular work at good wages, are held in considerable regard by the people. Consequently, in the disturbances which occurred last year on the news of the disasters in France, when property was being destroyed in all directions in the south-western part of the Island, where alone there are no usines, there was but little disturbance in the other quarters, and the usines and their contributory estates were entirely exempt from injury. This fact suggests a question worthy of the consideration of proprietors in other Colonies, where labour is insufficient and where the malignity of individual labourers is apt to indulge in incendiarism, viz.—whether the admission of the labourers to a certain share of profits (on a system similar to that in operation in some of the English iron foundries) would not save expense both in superintendence and insurance, and thus conduce to the benefit of both employers and employed.

60. But apart from its incidental advantages, there can be little doubt that the Martinique system might be profitably adopted in St. Lucia. There are several localities where the cane cultivation is already sufficient to support an usine, and if, as Martinique experience indicates, a coast carriage of eight to ten miles does not prevent profit both to grower and manufacturer, there is no quarter of the Island where one might not be established with advantage.

61. Besides the regular sugar estates, there is, owing to the cheapness of land, a large number of small plots in the occupation of negro peasant-proprietors, who show their preference for cane cultivation when there is the slightest opportunity for indulging it. When sufficiently near to an estate, they deliver their canes to the proprietor, consenting in consideration of their manufacture to surrender half the sugar produced and all the molasses—an arrangement which gives rise, as may be supposed, to continual misunderstandings. Many others are content with their own manufacture carried on with wooden hand-mills (more rarely cattle-mills), movable boiling kettles, and other rude contrivances. All these would inevitably seize the opportunity which would be offered by an usine of selling their canes by weight; and many others, whose poverty now precludes them from cane-growing, would probably abandon for it the raising of provisions.

62. Moreover, the requisite capital could undoubtedly be obtained by co-operation. But here is the chief difficulty. Whenever the question has been hitherto mooted, there has been disclosed on the part of some whose assistance was necessary, not only an extreme reluctance to abandon long-established habits, but a notion that the new system would involve a certain loss of their independence and

position. Uniting at present the functions of planter and manufacturer, and to a certain extent those of merchant also, they are unwilling to adopt an innovation which involves their necessary confinement to one character. If, however, a single instance of the success of the new system could be brought immediately under their eyes, it is probable that this reluctance would be overcome. There is, I am glad to say, reason to hope that such an instance will not be long forthcoming.

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63. But failing changes involving outlay of capital, there is an inexpensive improvement capable of general adoption which would render even the poorest planter comparatively secure.

64. At present the sugar of this Colony, to the amount of over 100,000 cwt. of the 114,000 exported, is unfit for immediate consumption, and is of that quality that necessitates the occupation of the refiner. Some soils will always probably produce a better sugar than others. But it is yet a fact, not merely theoretical, but being continually demonstrated elsewhere in practice, that an edible sugar can be produced from any land where canes grow readily by the same process now used for the inferior quality, and with no more labour or expense. As the one commodity is worth less than the other by 4s. per cent. on the average, there is thus an unnecessary loss to the planters of this small Colony of 20,000*l.* per annum, or no inconsiderable proportion of the whole profit realized in sugar cultivation.

65. All that is required to produce the higher quality is the acquisition and application of modern knowledge as to the ingredients to be used in clarifying, which require not only to be measured with exactness, instead of by guess-work, but to be varied according to differences of soil.

66. As the above facts are, I am glad to say, becoming recognized by some, this change will, no doubt, in course of time be adopted by all. But such is the apathy and indifference with regard to improvement, that I fear nothing but a serious fall in prices would secure quickly a consummation so desirable.

67. The sugar crop of the present year, in spite of an unfavourable season, will probably fall little short of that of last year, and is likely again to exceed 10,000 hogsheads. And if the present condition of the market continues until the bulk of the produce reaches home, any slight deficit in quantity will be more than compensated by increased prices.

Immigration.

68. Of the 1,500 Indian immigrants imported into this Island in the years between 1859 and 1862, only about 300 remain, and but for the Ordinance lately passed and mentioned under a former head of this Report, these would probably have gone also to seek a larger society of their countrymen in neighbouring colonies. All those remaining at the end of last year, who preferred a free return passage to bounty, sailed for Calcutta in January last, to the number of 162, and we have just received the news that the voyage was a healthy and successful one. The place of the departed labourers has been to a partial extent taken by Barbadians, who immigrated here during 1870, to the number of perhaps 400. A few have come at their

ST. LUCIA. own expense, but the majority were imported by individual planters. The Government was urged to encourage and conduct this immigration, and to pay a certain portion of the expenses. The object in view was a reasonable and desirable one, but it was considered necessary to defer consideration of the question until provision should be made for a staff of medical officers sufficient to attend on the immigrants in the country districts.

69. Notwithstanding the proximity of the two islands to one another, and that their latitude is almost the same, the climate of Barbados differs greatly from that of St. Lucia. In the former the land is comparatively flat and denuded of foliage, and a thin light soil barely conceals the porous coral. St. Lucia, on the other hand, is mountainous, with the exception of a small portion of its south-eastern quarter, and the forest remains on probably nine-tenths of its surface. The soil is also for the most part either loam or clay, and, even where different, covers impermeable rock. Hence in Barbados the rainfall is less, its effects are less permanent, and the climate is far dryer. Probably for this reason the Barbadian on arrival here requires acclimatization almost as much as the Indian Coolie, and is commonly sickly during his first two years' residence.

70. The new Medical Ordinance requires returns from estates of all persons resident upon them who have been less than two years in the Island, and compels the provision for them of medical attendance. As soon as the medical staff, to be appointed under the same Ordinance, is complete, I am of opinion that this immigration should be encouraged and assisted, if the planters still desire it.

71. They have, however, not so far been generally satisfied with this class of immigrants. The Barbadian bears somewhat the same relation to the negro of other West Indian Colonies as the workman of large towns to the agricultural labourer. The struggle for livelihood in a dense population has sharpened his wits and given an edge to his tongue. He has a fuller knowledge of his rights, and is not only not slow and sometimes inconsiderate in asserting them, but is apt to return with interest any real or fancied attempt to encroach upon them. It is therefore not surprising that he should prove a disagreeable substitute for the submissive and docile Coolie.

72. There are instances, however, where gangs of Barbadians have, under judicious management, proved valuable plantation labourers; and I am inclined to think that they would become so generally as they became better understood, and when they themselves were more used to the country. Against this they are at first strongly prejudiced, inasmuch as everything, including the language, is unfamiliar to them. But as the strangeness wears off, the certainty of work and the facility of obtaining plots of garden ground overcome their objections and render them unwilling to return home. As their sickness has also assisted to their discouragement, gratuitous medical relief is likely to prove a further inducement to them to remain.

73. If, however, Barbadian immigration, as some fear, should prove a failure, there appears no reason why this Island should be less favoured than its neighbours, in respect of the permission to import Coolies. Such an undertaking, however, should, I think, be only as a last resort. Before seeking a labour market on the other side of the

world, it would seem more natural, and it would certainly be far more economical, to avail ourselves of the sources of supply which are near at hand; and this especially where an island under the same Government has a surplus population which it is found yearly more difficult to support.

74. While on this subject I may mention that immigration, while, no doubt, highly desirable, does not appear to have been so absolutely necessary as was at one time supposed. The crop having, as shown above, largely increased, and cultivation having been extended since the time that the greatest number of Coolies was in the Island, and their place having been partially supplied by others, either the Creoles have become more industrious or more of them have been attracted to the estates. From the information which I have been able to gather, I am inclined to think that the latter supposition is the more generally correct. And I think further that much more labour might be obtained of the same kind, if task-work was to a certain extent substituted for the day-work that is now the general rule. Some planters have already tried this change with advantage to themselves, and it is probable that others will soon follow their example; in which case the correctness of the above opinion will be tested. The adoption of task-work exclusively would be hard upon the weakly, and therefore undesirable. But, on the other hand, the strong, who object most to shilling-a-day payment, are also the most apt to seek an independent livelihood in the forest.

75. *Education.*

is nominally controlled by a Board consisting of two committees of equal number, one composed of Roman Catholics, the other of Protestants. But, in fact, the functions of the Board are only exercised to the extent of dividing equally between the two committees the income of the Education Fund.

76. That fund consists of an annual grant of 500*l.* from the general revenue, together with a sum that amounted last year to 606*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, the proceeds of an export duty upon cocoa and logwood, of certain licences, and of fines and penalties recovered for breaches of the revenue laws.

77. The Protestant committee has invariably granted its share of the fund to the schools named after the Mico Charity, which, in right of providing about two-thirds of the funds for their support, also controls them.

78. The teaching, properly so called, in these schools is purely secular. But in accordance, I believe, with the rules of the charity, the Bible is read daily without note or explanation. To this system the Catholic clergy naturally object, and have in most of the towns and villages established schools of their own, which are supported by the Government funds at the disposal of the Catholic committee.

79. There is not, and never has been, a regular inspection by Government of any of the schools. The funds at its disposal would not admit of the employment of an officer duly qualified for the duty, without a serious reduction in the grants, already barely sufficient for the support of the schools.

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80. As the schools in several neighbouring islands can hardly be so numerous as to more than occupy the time of an active officer, the best and most feasible means of obtaining efficient inspection would, I venture to think, be co-operation between the Colonies, and the appointment of an officer at a salary made up of contributions from each.

81. There being no inspection, we have no means of testing, with certainty, the value of the education imparted, or the relative efficiency of the Mico and Catholic schools. There can, however, be little doubt that the Mico schools, being presided over by trained teachers, afford the better secular education. It is in this belief, at all events, that many parents persist in sending their children to them in spite of clerical opposition. Thus more than six-sevenths of their pupils are Catholics.

82. The number of pupils on the rolls, in 1870, of the ten Mico schools was 1,313, of seven Catholic schools 1,030. The numbers in 1869 were respectively 1,323 and 935; so that there was, in 1870, an increase, both actual and relative, in the number attending the Catholic schools, a fact which would seem to indicate the increasing influence of the Catholic clergy.

83. The attendance in both classes of schools, if their returns are equally correct, would appear to be about the same; the average number of pupils attending daily being in each case five-eighths of the whole number on the rolls.

84. The want of Government inspection is, in the case of the Mico schools, to a great extent, compensated by the regular inspection of an officer employed by the trustees of the charity, who, as far as I am able to judge, is not only fully capable of the work required of him, but is active and energetic in its performance. From returns supplied by him, which may be depended upon as accurate, it appears that of the 1,313 pupils on the rolls, 290 were able to read English with ease, and 468 to write it from dictation. With regard to the subjects English grammar and geography, as the returns give only the numbers of pupils under instruction in them, no idea can be formed of their proficiency. But I may mention that in examining one of these schools lately, at Soufrière, on these subjects, I was surprised at the extent and variety of the knowledge displayed. In arithmetic, of the 751 pupils who have commenced the subject, 164 are learning compound rules, and 61 have advanced to and beyond "Proportion."

85. Considering that all these subjects are taught exclusively in English, and that the vernacular language is a patois of French, containing but very few English words, the above results may, I think, be looked upon as so far satisfactory. Judging from these and from the few opportunities which I have had of examination and observation, I am inclined to think that the teaching in these schools is of a considerably higher character than that of the Ward schools in Trinidad, as disclosed by Mr. Keenan's valuable report. But at the same time many of the defects of system observed by him exist here also, though some in a less degree.

86. The salary of teachers in no degree depends on efficiency of teaching. Payment partially in proportion to results would be far

preferable. But the change could not be carried into effect without regular and uniform inspection. The difficulty with regard to this I have mentioned above.

87. The exclusive use in the schools of the English language is clearly a mistake. Much labour must be wasted both on the part of master and pupil by the system of teaching in a language which the pupils understand but imperfectly, and of which they are at first totally ignorant; and I cordially agree with Mr. Keenan, that reading should be first taught in the language of the country, and English acquired through it. In such case, not only would the education in every subject be better than it is but the chief object of the present system, viz. a knowledge of English, would in the end be more perfectly attained.

88. The reading-books in use are, as in Trinidad, unsuited to the country. Many of their illustrations and allusions refer to objects with which, as being common in England, familiarity is taken for granted, but which neither pupils nor teachers have ever seen, and most of them are never likely to see; while, on the other hand, no instruction is conveyed nor interest excited with reference to the phenomena around them. The expense of preparing a set of more suitable books would, I imagine, be beyond the means of this and others of the smaller colonies. But as there are a large number of familiar objects common to the whole West Indies, this object also appears to be one in which co-operation might be evoked with advantage. Even the French translations would be useful in several colonies besides this.

89. Another radical fault in the educational system is quite as apparent here as in Trinidad. A number of youths leave the schools, who, because they can read and write fairly and have some knowledge of arithmetic, look upon themselves as above any other manual labour than that of clerkship. But the field for the employment of clerks being very small, many never attain to that position, and too often become not only useless but positively harmful to society. It is this class which furnishes the village lawyers and petition writers, who gain a precarious livelihood by playing upon the credulity of the more ignorant. Disappointed in life, they avenge themselves on society by fomenting dissatisfaction, provoking useless litigation, and inventing frauds. While others do nothing whatever, and live upon the earnings of their wives and mistresses.

90. The best remedy for this evil would be the introduction of an industrial element into school teaching. By familiarizing children from their earliest years with the tools of the labourer and the artisan, not only would their use in manhood be rendered more easy, but these false notions of dignity would probably be overcome by degrees, and eventually precluded altogether.

91. The Catholic schools, which obtain by far the larger proportion of girls, have to a certain extent met the above want, by teaching sewing and other plain needlework. But as the number of seamstresses is larger than is required, it would be well if there were also included among the subjects of instruction a knowledge of cooking, washing, and other work, suited to the sex. These pursuits, owing to those engaged in them being comparatively few and inexperienced, presen

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a better chance of affording a livelihood in themselves, and therefore decreased temptation to obtain one by less reputable means.

92. In order to effect a really useful reform in this and other respects, we must have at command teachers specially trained for the purpose. But the establishment of a proper Normal School would be beyond our present unaided means; and here again the best hope of obtaining the desired result would be in the co-operation of other colonies similarly circumstanced.

93. In the absence of such co-operation, either there must be a considerable increase of taxation or the present unsatisfactory state of things must indefinitely continue.

94. Having pointed out what appear to me as defects in the system of teaching, I feel especially bound to acknowledge, emphatically, the great benefits which have been conferred upon this Island by the charity which controls the Mico Schools—an institution which made the first efforts to dispel the dark ignorance engendered of slavery, and has during 33 years spent a larger sum on the education of the people than has been furnished from their own taxation.

95. In 1870 a Grammar School for boys was established for the first time in the Island. There are now 29 pupils, under the tuition of the Rev. P. Mondens, a clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church. A school of “secondary” education for girls has existed for some years. It is, as far as I am able to judge, admirably conducted by the ladies of the convent of St. Joseph, and has a high repute among the upper classes of the community. It is open to Catholics and Protestants alike. The number of pupils is at present 58.

Population.

96. The returns of the census taken this year are not yet complete. But the general result shows that the Registrar-General's estimate of the population, as given last year, was very nearly correct. The total number is rather over 31,000. Detailed information on this subject belongs more properly to the next Annual Report.

Public Health.

97. The health of the people during 1870 was good. There was an entire absence, as there has been, happily, for many years, of yellow fever, cholera, and small-pox, and the only malady which occurred in an epidemic form was “whooping cough.” This, however, has for some time disappeared.

98. Exclusive of still-births, the death rate was 23·1 per thousand of the population, the birth rate 42·5 per thousand; so that there was a natural increase of population at the rate of 19·4 per thousand, an increase that indicates a climate and circumstances comparing favourably with those of any of the neighbouring colonies.

General Remarks.

99. Public order was maintained throughout the year. There was, indeed, some excitement during the disturbances in Martinique, such as would naturally result from the close connection existing between the people of the two islands. But no outbreak occurred, and tran-

quillity was quickly restored. There is a certain ill-feeling between class and class, caused perhaps by undue exclusiveness on the one side and over sensitiveness on the other; but, happily, no general disaffection against the Government. Food and other necessities are cheap. Work at fair wages is easily obtainable. Taxation is very light, being on the average less than 13s. 6d. per head per annum (inclusive of municipal taxes and special taxes for immigration and education), or little more than half of the average taxation of the West India Colonies. Justice in respect of ordinary grievances at least, may be obtained at trifling cost. The public health is good, and has been so for many years. So that all things considered, the people have probably as much cause for contentment as any in the world.

100. I am, however, of opinion that the general welfare might be materially improved by very simple means, viz. an increase of taxation on certain articles of import. I do not refer mainly to the good which might be achieved by increased revenue in a country which requires so much expenditure to be brought up to the level of modern civilization. Nor do I mean a taxation intended to check a pernicious consumption. I mean, paradox as it may appear to English economists, that the taxation would be good without reference to either of these objects. The general rule that taxation is merely a necessary evil, applies justly, no doubt, to those countries where the bulk of the population labour, and earn to the full extent of their power. In their case, of course, increased taxation on any article of common use is at once followed by decreased consumption; and indeed this decrease is a test of the amount of privation suffered by consumers. But in St. Lucia as in other West India Colonies, the labourers, who form the great majority of consumers, though they can earn wages every day, only choose to earn them on three or four days in each week. The intervals of idleness do them the more harm, physically and morally, in that they have but limited means and capacity of healthy enjoyment. Anything therefore not itself pernicious, which tended to lead them to more regular habits of industry, would do them an incalculable benefit, would promote their health and happiness, and prolong their lives. And such would, I conclude, be the result of increased taxation of the kind referred to.

101. There are many articles of considerable cost, such as tobacco, fine clothes, condiments of various kinds, &c., which though not necessary for the support of life or even for the preservation of health, are yet largely used by the labourers. It is clear that their desire for these commodities is even stronger than their natural inclination to idleness, or they would labour merely to supply themselves with necessities. And it therefore becomes probable, that if the value of these articles were enhanced by an increase, within reasonable limits, of the duty levied upon them, the labourers instead of using them less would merely draw upon their fund of idleness to pay the additional price; or, in other words, exert themselves more to obtain them. The taxation would thus, instead of an evil, be a benefit to them.

102. I am aware that a similar argument applies with even greater force to necessities; and indeed I am inclined to think that the

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high duties levied even on these in some of the other West India Colonies, have contributed somewhat to their prosperity. It is, however, a question whether the general welfare is not in this case purchased at too great expense to that by no means insignificant number of persons whose earnings cannot necessarily be augmented by increased exertion. These are the persons who suffer most on any increase of taxation. But a measure which merely deprives them of some of the amenities of life is justified by a much lower degree of expediency than one which renders life itself less secure. As the duties now levied on some necessities might be doubled, and others more than doubled, and yet be lower than in other West India Colonies, I am by no means prepared to say that they are up to that limit, to pass which would be unjustifiable. But as this limit has certainly not been reached in the case of what may be called luxuries, it may perhaps be possible to obtain the effect desired by dealing with them alone.

103. Hitherto the chief opposition to any increase of taxation has been on the part of the merchants. They have feared that trade would suffer, and their immediate outlay would at first be larger. But if the increase was within moderate limits, I venture to think that trade would benefit rather than suffer. There might indeed be a temporary depression at first, but more labour would produce more wealth, and whilst the consumption of the taxed articles would soon recover its level, the purchase of others would be extended.

104. As stated in my Report of last year, a reward was offered for the first time in 1870 for the destruction of poisonous snakes. After the vote of 300*l.* had been exhausted by the payment for 12,000 heads, the Legislature during my absence, refused to renew it. On reconsideration, however, a somewhat diminished vote was passed in February this year, so that this interesting experiment will continue. The opposition to the vote was caused by an opinion that all snakes which are seen are killed without any reward. But the large decrease in the number of heads brought in this year since the diminution of the reward seems to refute this opinion completely. Either the larger reward was a greater inducement to kill, or the number of snakes killed last year has caused greater difficulty in finding them now.

105. Further, the number of deaths by snake-poison was in 1869, before the offer of reward, 22; in 1870, only 16. This may have been an accidental fluctuation, but the supposition is rendered less likely by a still further diminished death rate in the first half of this year. During the latter period there were six deaths from this cause. In the same period of 1870, the number was 10; and in 1869, 11. There is therefore some reason to believe that the 400*l.* or thereabouts, which the measure has hitherto cost, has been well expended.

G. W. DES VŒUX,
Administrator of the Government.

ANTIGUA.

ANTIGUA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY
to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 101.)

MY LORD, Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 11, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, together with a Report thereon from Mr. Baynes, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBT. M. MUNDY,
Administrator of the Government,
Leeward Islands.

Enclosure in No. 12.

Enclosure in
No. 12.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Antigua,
May 6, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit to your Excellency some remarks on the Statistical Tables composing the Blue Book of Antigua for the year 1870.

Taxes, &c.

The only changes effected in 1870 under this head were the imposition of a stamp duty, and the discontinuance of the trade tax.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The finances of the Colony are now in a satisfactory condition.

The ordinary revenue was 41,136*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, and the ordinary expenditure 31,315*l.* 1*s.*, showing that the ordinary revenue was in excess of the ordinary expenditure by 9,821*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* After the payment of a sum of 5,436*l.* 19*s.* for interest, and in payment of public debt, the balance was reduced to 4,384*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* This balance is composed of the following items :—

	£	s.	d.
General Revenue - - -	3,803	7	10
Clergy Fund - - -	146	6	2
Immigration Fund - - -	599	10	7
Barbuda Fund - - -	334	18	1

The revenue was in excess of that of 1869 by 1,326*l.* 3*s.* 11½*d.* The expenditure was 2,500*l.* below that of the previous year, the principal decrease being as follows :—

	1869.			1870.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Interest - - - -	3,004	11	8	2,211	11	9	792	19	11
Sinking Funds - - -	4,437	0	0	3,225	7	3	1,211	12	9
Military Expenditure - -	1,953	15	11	966	19	1	988	16	10

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The principal source of revenue is the import duty. This yielded 20,436*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* Articles of food contributed 9,303*l.* 15*s.* 11½*d.*, or nearly 50 per cent. of the entire amount; tobacco and snuff, 1,224*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*; pitch pine, shingles, and other woods, 2,019*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.*; wines, spirits, ale, &c., 2,009*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

An excise duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon is levied on rum consumed in the Island, and a licence is required for the sale by retail of wines, spirits, or malt. The excise duty in 1870 was £3,733 10 7

Liquor licences - - - 954 19 0

£4,688 9 7

Public Debt.

The public debt at the close of the year was :—

	£	s.	d.
Water-works Loan - - -	30,000	0	0
Local Loan - - -	6,113	13	10
Savings Bank Loan - - -	9,006	8	10
Immigration Fund - - -	6,301	6	5
Treasury Notes - - -	774	0	0
	<u>£52,195</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>

5,988*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* has been invested in the water-works sinking fund, and 380*l.* in the savings bank sinking fund, thus reducing the net public debt to 45,826*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

Public Works.

! No new works undertaken.

Legislation.

The chief enactments in 1870 were :—

The Act to provide for the further reduction of the expenses of certain departments of the public service. Under the provisions of this Act the offices of Registrar and Provost Marshal have been combined, with a saving to the Colony of 200*l.* per annum. This Act provides for further reductions in the establishment of the Colony as vacancies occur in certain public offices.

The Telegraph Act grants a subsidy of 800*l.* per annum for ten years to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, on condition that the company shall, within one year of the coming into operation of the Act, place this Island in telegraphic communication with the other West India Islands, and with the continents of Europe and America.

The Census Act.

The Act for the better management of the Holberton hospital, poor-house, and lunatic asylum, and to provide medical attendance for the labouring population.

Under this head may be included the resolutions passed on the 8th July by an unanimous vote of the Legislative Council for the Federation of the Leeward Islands. These resolutions have since been adopted by the other colonies in this Government.

Population.

The returns under this head show that a marked improvement has within the last two or three years taken place in the state of the public health.

In 1870 the births exceeded the deaths by 336. The number of births registered was 1,598; of deaths, 1,262.

The birth rate was 4·3 per cent., or 43 to every 1,000 of the population. The death rate was 3·4 per cent., or 34 to every 1,000 of the population.

The birth rate for 1869 was 4·04. The death rate was 4·02.

These figures present a pleasant contrast to the heavy rate registered in the years 1862, 1863, and 1864, the average death rate for each of these years being 4·68 per cent., or 46·8 to every 1,000 of the population.

Of the births registered in 1870, 841 were of boys, and 757 of girls, showing an excess of 84 of boys, the proportion being about 111 boys to every 100 girls.

The total number of illegitimate children was 1,017, or 63·6 per cent. of the whole number born.

There were 207 marriages in the year, of which 101 were solemnized by the Anglican Church, 3 by the Roman Catholic Church, 68 by the Moravian Church, and 35 by the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The marriage rate for the year was ·55 per cent., or 5·5 to every 1,000 of the population.

The number of births, deaths, and marriages registered during the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1861 - - -	1,326	1,403	183
1862 - - -	1,072	1,738	150
1863 - - -	1,407	1,734	162
1864 - - -	1,407	1,750	166
1865 - - -	1,581	1,534	165
1866 - - -	1,353	1,310	183
1867 - - -	1,531	1,403	172
1868 - - -	1,375	1,517	
1869 - - -	1,508	1,493	192
1870 - - -	1,598	1,262	207
	14,158	15,144	

It would thus appear that the native population has decreased by 986 in the last ten years, or at the rate of ·265 per cent. per annum.

The heavy death rate for the years 1862, 1863, and 1864, may to some extent be attributed to the effects of small-pox, which disease broke out in this Colony in 1862, and continued in an epidemic form until the commencement of 1864. Though the mortality from the disease was not great in proportion to the number attacked, yet there is reason to believe that the constitution of the sufferers was impaired, and rendered them an easy prey to diseases of subsequent occurrence.

The severe drought to which the Colony was subjected in 1863 and 1864, together with the unwholesome condition of the numerous negro villages, also had a prejudicial effect on the public health.

ARTICULAR.

Education.

The Commissioners of Education report that the attendance at schools has been greater than at any time during the last four years, but that it is fluctuating and irregular, and that "it must be so, so long as comparative poverty urges the parent to seek employment for the child either at home or abroad; so long, as teachers are obliged to exact school-pence from children, whose attendance they are powerless to compel; so long, in fact, as education be not rendered, at least to the extent of half a day, compulsory."

The Commissioners also report, that "at the close of 1869 there were on the books 3,548 names, and in average attendance 2,096 children; the average numbers for the whole year being 3,609 and 2,258 respectively. On this the year 1870 shows an increase of 185 on the numbers on the books, and 96 in average attendance; and an increase for the whole year of 167 in the one case, and 139 in the other. And both years, in some measure, but especially the year 1870, may be compared favourably with 1868 and 1867, it having exceeded the former year by 295 and 416, and the latter by 515 and 393.

"A like satisfactory comparison may be made between the amounts received in the amount of school fees for the last two years, and the sum realized from the same source in 1868 and 1867. In 1869 there was contributed to the income of the schools in this form 305*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*, and in 1870, 332*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and these together are in excess of the joint totals of 1868 and 1867 by 48*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.* It may be stated here that each child attending school has, on the average, paid for purposes of education, 1*s.* 9½*d.* in the year 1870.

"The total cost of maintaining the schools for the two years was 3,158*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Of this, 3,127*l.* 0*s.* 4½*d.* was expended in the shape of salaries, the balance on books and apparatus. But these sums are not to be relied upon for statistical purposes, as moneys are often spent on the schools which do not appear in the returns, and of which consequently the Commissioners possess no record.

"Towards this expenditure the public grant reached in 1869 675*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; in 1870, 693*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; in all 1,368*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* In 1870 the amount granted towards the education of each child in attendance at all appears to have been 3*s.* 8*d.*"

Imports and Exports.

A decrease of 10,178*l.* appears in the value of imports as compared with the returns for 1869.

							£
1868	-	-	-	-	-	-	169,900
1869	-	-	-	-	-	-	174,356
1870	-	-	-	-	-	-	164,178

The exports show an increase over 1869 of 33,038*l.*

							£
1868	-	-	-	-	-	-	273,706
1869	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,973
1870	-	-	-	-	-	-	234,011

The crop of the Island was an average one, 12,674 hogsheads of sugar having been shipped during the year. The sugar crop of 1868 was 12,682, and that of 1869, 10,370.

A falling off in the cultivation of cotton is shown by the decreasing exportation of that article.

ANTIGUA.

Cotton shipped in 1868	-	-	lbs. 651,000
" " 1869	-	-	353,500
" " 1870	-	-	168,981

Shipping.

There is but little variation in these returns for the last three years.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
1868 - - -	454	26,784	472	28,829
1869 - - -	471	25,509	472	26,188
1870 - - -	422	23,228	423	24,977

Gaol and Prisoners.

The returns under this head show that there has been a considerable decrease in crime since 1868.

The number of commitments in 1868	was	822
" " " 1869	"	647
" " " 1870	"	541
The recommitments - - - 1868	"	380
" - - - 1869	"	315
" - - - 1870	"	240

This great diminution may in part be accounted for by the stricter enforcement than heretofore of prison discipline, and by the adoption of shot-drill as a means of penal labour. Owing to the favourable seasons, constant employment can be procured by the labourers; and ground provisions, which form their chief food, are cheap and abundant.

Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Charitable Institutions, and Medical Relief to the Labouring Population.

Under the provisions of an Act passed in December, 1870, these institutions have for the purpose of management been combined and placed under the responsible control of a Board of paid officials appointed by the Governor.

The new Board was appointed early in the present year, and consists of the Treasurer, the Auditor-General, the Senior Medical Officer, and the Second Medical Officer.

The Act has been found to work well, and to meet the purposes for which it was intended. A report on this subject must necessarily be deferred until the close of the year 1871.

ANTIGUA.*Conclusion.*

A retrospect of the year under review affords ample ground for congratulation in every political relation. The scheme for the Federation of the Leeward Islands into one Colony, under one Governor, received the unanimous approval of the Legislative Council. The favour which this measure has met in the community is evinced by the numerous signed addresses, commendatory of the scheme, presented to Governor Sir Benjamin Pine on his departure for England on leave of absence.

The finances of the Colony have been placed in a healthy condition. The returns show a surplus revenue of 3,300*l.*, and the Government will ere long be in a position to effect a modification and reduction of taxation, especially as regards the duties levied on articles of food imported into the Colony.

The sugar crop was an average one. The Island was blessed with bountiful seasons; labour was abundant, and food cheap. These material advantages were attended by a decrease in crime, and a marked improvement in the public health, as shown by the returns of the Registrar-General.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWIN D. BAYNES,
Colonial Secretary.

Lieutenant-Governor Mundy,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.MONTSERRAT.

No. 18.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President ODLUM to The OFFICER }
ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 170.)

SIR, Government House, Montserrat, Sept. 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1870, with the Colonial Secretary's report thereon.

I regret the late period at which the Blue Book is forwarded; but the delay was unavoidable in consequence of the ill-health of the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. S. ODLUM,
President.

The Officer Administering the Government.

Enclosure in No. 13.

MONTSEBET.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK OF 1870.

Enclosure in
No. 13.*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The actual revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1866 - - -	£ 5,133	£ 4,735
1867 - - -	4,071	4,024
1868 - - -	4,953	4,656
1869 - - -	5,433	5,046
1870 - - -	5,126	4,432

The revenue of 1870, as compared with that of the previous year. (1869), shows a decrease of 307*l.*, owing to the discontinuance of the specific tax on land as a "poor-rate," the general revenue being sufficient to meet the expense of maintaining the poor, and to the repeal of the customs duties on wheaten flour and cornmeal as articles of food.

The difference of expenditure (614*l.*) between those two years, namely 1869 and 1870, is chiefly attributable to the larger liabilities in 1869 towards liquidating the public debt and the restoration of the public buildings.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1870. Balance from 1869	£	s.	d.	1870. Expenditure of	£	s.	d.
available on 1st				1870 -	4,432	10	8½
January, 1870 -	698	15	7½	Dec. 31. Surplus in chest			
Actual receipts of				available for			
1870 -	5,126	7	11	1871 -	1,392	12	9
	£5,825	3	6½		£5,825	3	6½

Public Debt.

To the Imperial Government, on the Earthquake Loan of 1843,	£	s.	d.
payable in three equal annual instalments with interest at	1,517	14	0
3½ per cent.	-	-	-

Public Works.

The erection of a public market at a cost of 147*l.* 1*s.* The establishment of this market has given general satisfaction. It is not only an improvement to the town, but found to be of great convenience. The payment of a very trifling tariff of charge not only meets the salary of the keeper (30*l.* per annum), but yields a surplus more than sufficient to keep the market in repair.

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances were enacted during the year, the most important of which are :—

No. 1. Establishes a public market.

MONTERRAT. No. 6. Abolishes the duty on wheaten flour and corn and other meal as articles of food.

No. 8. Abolishes all export duties.

No. 9. Repeals the tonnage duty on all vessels entering the ports of the Island.

No. 10. Provides for the employment in the public service of a second qualified medical practitioner, and provides medical attendance for the labouring population.

Agriculture.

PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

Year.	Sugar.		Molasses.	Lime Juice.
	Hbds.	Puns.	Puns.	Puns.
1866 - - -	1,607	398	30*	
1867 - - -	915	176	81*	
1868 - - -	1,662	532	898†	
1869 - - -	1,794	508	445†	
1870 - - -	1,879	418	85*	

* Concentrated.

† Raw.

There are but four or five of the sugar estates in the Island that are efficiently worked, and the result of an improved system of cultivation and the use of effective machinery shows itself in the increased crops annually produced. There are several other estates which are but partially cultivated; and others, the buildings and works of which have been allowed to go into ruin; but portions of the lands are cultivated, and the sugar manufactured on neighbouring estates on the share system.

Imports and Exports.

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1866 - - -	18,684	19,898
1867 - - -	17,788	13,952
1868 - - -	20,099	30,279
1869 - - -	25,254	37,228
1870 - - -	23,043	29,141

Shipping.

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1866 - - -	159	6,301	143	5,617
1867 - - -	159	5,356	145	5,338
1868 - - -	150	5,265	138	5,338
1869 - - -	146	5,677	138	5,813
1870 - - -	133	6,870	130	7,473

Population.

MONTERRAT

By census of 1861, 7,645 ; excess of registered births over deaths, from 1862 to 1870, inclusive, 1,286 ; making an average annual increase for nine years of 142 $\frac{1}{3}$, equal to an annual increase on the last census of 1·869 per cent.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

	1869.	1870.
Births	356	394
Deaths	277	183
Excess of births over deaths . .	79	211
Marriages	68	66

Education.

A grant of 100*l.* from the public funds was made for education in 1870.

Denomination.	Schools.	Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance.
Church of England . .	9	764	393
Roman Catholic . . .	1	77	59
Wesleyan	5	415	236

Gaols and Prisons.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
Commitments in 1870 .	86		33		118

	Once.			Twice.			Three times or more.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Prisoners committed before	5	1	6	4	4	8	7	0	7

Percentage of prisoners committed who could read - - 15·25.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. MEADE,
Colonial Secretary.

The Administrator of the Government.

St. Kitts.

ST. KITTS.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer administering the Government to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 207.)

MY LORD,

Leeward Islands, Antigua, Nov. 10, 1871.

No. 115.

I HAVE the honour to enclose a Despatch from Administrator Wigley, forwarding the Report on the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1870.

The Blue Book did not accompany Mr. Wigley's Despatch. I have, however, instructed him to forward it direct to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWIN D. BAYNES, Administrator of the Government, Leeward Islands.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1
in No. 14.

Enclosure 1 in No. 14.

(No. 115.)

SIR,

St. Christopher, October 16, 1871.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book for this Colony, with the report thereon by the Secretary to Government.

2. I must apologize for the lateness of its transmission, but the duties of collating and preparing the Census returns have operated against its being furnished at an earlier date.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) F. SPENCER WIGLEY.

The Officer administering
the Government, Antigua.

Enclosure 2
in No. 14.

Enclosure 2 in No. 14.

ST. CHRISTOPHER AND ANGUILLA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1870.

The revenue was 31,457*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, the expenditure 26,721*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, and the balance in hand on the 1st January was 16,354*l.* 1*s.*

The principal source of revenue in St. Christopher is that raised from the import duties, which contributed no less a sum than 13,645*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* for the purposes of general revenue, with the addition of 2,258*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* raised under a temporary Act for the improvement of the town of Basseterre, after the fire in 1867; making a total of 15,903*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, or 50·88 of the entire revenue.

Upon the articles imported under the rates specified in the tariff, St. Kitts.
the following duties were received:—

<i>Breadstuffs.</i>				£	s.	d.
Flour, at 4s. 2d. per barrel	-	-	-	2,565	16	8
Meal, at 2s. 1d. "	-	-	-	108	4	7
Bread, at 16s. per 180 lbs.	-	-	-	53	11	10
Rice, at 13s. per 100 lbs.	-	-	-	188	9	1
				£2,916	2	2

<i>Spirits, Malt, &c.</i>				£	s.	d.
Brandy, at 1s. 6d. per gallon	-	-	-	313	2	6
Gin, at "	-	-	-	287	2	0
Rum, at "	-	-	-	2	0	6
Cordials, at 3s. "	-	-	-	29	11	0
Malt, at 8s. 4d. per hogshead, 6d. per gallon	-	-	-	123	9	8
Wine, at 15 per cent., ad valorem	-	-	-	283	3	1
				£1,038	8	9

<i>Grain.</i>				£	s.	d.
Peas and beans, at 6d. per bushel	-	-	-	42	19	6
Oats, at 3d. "	-	-	-	196	15	0
Corn, at 8d. "	-	-	-	29	14	0
				£269	8	6

<i>Timber, &c.</i>				£	s.	d.
Cedar, &c., at 12s. 6d. per m.	-	-	-	1	3	7
Hardwood, at 33s. 4d. "	-	-	-	2	0	5
Pitch pine, at 12s. 6d. "	-	-	-	249	14	5
White pine, at 8s. 4d. "	-	-	-	545	18	0
Cedar shingles, at 2s. 1d. per m.	-	-	-	47	1	2
Cypress shingles, &c., at 4s. 2d. per m.	-	-	-	372	12	0
Shooks, at 4d. per bundle	-	-	-	226	5	4
Staves, at 8s. 4d. per m.	-	-	-	4	2	5
Wood hoops, at 8s. 4d. per 1,200	-	-	-	120	1	3
				£1,568	18	7

<i>Provisions and Groceries.</i>				£	s.	d.
Coffee, at 5s. per 100 lbs.	-	-	-	78	0	9
Cocoa, at 5s. "	-	-	-	38	15	1
Cheese, at 8s. 4d. "	-	-	-	96	12	3
Fish (dried or pickled), at 1s. 0½d. per 100 lbs.	-	-	-	704	3	6
Salted meat, at 4s. 2d. per 100 lbs.	-	-	-	449	15	3
Butter, at 8s. 4d. "	-	-	-	287	11	7
Lard, at 4s. 2d. "	-	-	-	53	10	8
Refined sugar, at 8s. 4d. "	-	-	-	127	9	0
Muscovado sugar, at 5s. "	-	-	-	5	10	3
Vinegar, at 2d. per gallon	-	-	-	5	9	4
				£1,846	17	8

ST. KIRTS.

Stock.

		£	s.	d.
Horses, at 20s. 10d. each	- - - - -	117	14	2
Mules, at 10s. 5d. "	- - - - -	46	7	1
Asses, at 4s. 2d. "	- - - - -	8	2	6
Cattle, at 4s. 2d. "	- - - - -	88	2	6
		£255	6	8

Miscellaneous.

	£	s.	d.
Soap, at 2s. 1d. per 100 lbs. - - - - -	135	15	7
Snuff, at 20s. " " - - - - -	3	15	2
Tobacco, at 10s. " " - - - - -	348	3	6
Ditto, manufactured, at 20s. per 100 lbs. - - -	4	6	0
Cigars, 10 per cent. ad valorem - - - - -	27	18	5
Candles (sperm), at 12s. 6d. per 100 lbs. - - -	30	10	7
Ditto (tallow), at 6s. 3d. " " - - - - -	258	2	6
Dried fruit, at 1s. 0½d. per 100 lbs. - - - - -	22	9	7
	£831	1	4

The other articles of imports, save such as are mentioned in the table of exemptions, are subjected to an ad-valorem duty of eight per centum, giving a revenue of 4,918*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

The value of imports under the Table of exemptions was 23,468*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

The export tax or duty ranks next in importance as to its monetary value, and the following Table sets forth the amount levied, together with the object for which it is so levied:—

By whom paid.	For what Purpose.	Rate of Export Tax or Duty.								Total Amount collected.	
		Hhd. of Sugar and other Package in like proportion.	Pun. Molasses and other Package in like proportion.	Pun. of Rum and other Package in like proportion.	Barrel of Salt.	100 lbs. of Arrowroot, or Tame-tee-anna.	100 lbs. of Cotton.	Barrel of Potatoes.			
Exporter	Stipends of Clergy, &c.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£	s. d.
Do. -	Immigration Fund -	4 2	1 0½	2 1	0 1	0 6	0 1	0 3		3,116	5 7
Ship -	General Revenue -	2 1	0 6½	1 0½	0 0½	—	—	—		381	8 6
Exporter	Up-keep of Cavalry -	2 0	1 6	1 6	—	—	—	—		1,679	0 11
		4 2	—	—	—	—	—	—		2,700	5 6
	Improvement of Town of Basseterre - }	An addition of 25 per cent. on the amount collected for Stipends of Clergy - - - }								£7,877	0 6
										647	12 10
										£8,524	13 4

Licences form the next important item of revenue. The liquor licences produced 2,343*l.* 15*s.*; game licences, 3*l.*; boatmen, porter's, and butcher's licences, 51*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; and dog licences, 42*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*; these sources, with the additional 25 per cent. on liquor licences, produced 2,783*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The tonnage dues realized the sum of 1,678*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, while miscellaneous sources, comprising fines and forfeitures, Post Office, Grammar School, &c., realized 2,552*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*

ST. KITTS.

The ordinary revenue may be estimated at 27,167*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, the contribution of 2,644*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* under the Act imposing an additional 25 per cent. for the improvement of the town of Basseterre being exceptional, the Act having been passed for a limited period.

The ordinary expenditure of the Colony for the year was about 23,220*l.*; the grants to St. George's Church and to the Wesleyan Mission, together with some 1,500*l.* for the improvement of the town of Basseterre and other extraordinary items, increased the expenditure about 3,500*l.*

The detailed expenditure of the Colony was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Civil Establishment - - - -	3,187	16	9
Judicial Establishment - - - -	2,128	4	2
Ecclesiastical Establishment - - - -	3,559	2	6
Education - - - - -	1,168	0	7
Medical - - - - -	1,399	19	11
Police - - - - -	1,988	7	8
Prison - - - - -	667	0	7
Militia - - - - -	2,581	8	7
Hospital - - - - -	2,070	11	8
Sanitary and Registration - - - -	716	4	6
Fire Company - - - - -	426	11	8
Roads - - - - -	1,743	18	10
Works and buildings - - - - -	1,468	9	3
Improvement of town of Basseterre - -	1,554	14	8
Miscellaneous - - - - -	2,115	13	2
	<u>£26,721</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>

The following Tables of the financial, agricultural, and commercial position of the Colony for the last ten years disclose a steady and satisfactory progression:—

Year.	Balance in hand of Treasurer.	Balance available for the Service of the succeeding year.	Revenue.					Expenditure.
			Imports.	Exports.		Other Sources.	Total Revenue.	
				Paid by Shipper.	Paid by Shlp.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1861 -	10,353	3,816	12,080	2,329	1,308	4,565	20,282	21,433
1862 -	9,202	5,422	12,783	2,792	1,446	5,272	22,293	21,371
1863 -	10,123	5,614	10,701	4,719	1,497	5,055	21,972	22,154
1864 -	9,940	3,319	11,221	2,683	781	4,760	19,445	21,257
1865 -	8,129	5,436	12,127	5,804	1,731	5,414	25,076	22,259
1866 -	10,946	5,200	12,204	4,879	1,577	5,845	24,505	24,926
1867 -	10,525	6,384	14,695	4,467	1,393	5,764	26,319	26,093
1868 -	10,749	8,715	15,239	5,438	1,594	11,626	33,897	30,520
1869 -	14,126	8,714	13,501	4,358	1,310	9,844	29,012	27,584
1870 -	16,354	12,759	13,645	5,817	1,679	10,317	31,458	26,721

ST. KITTS.

Imports.

Year.	Value of Goods liable to Specific Duty.	Value of Goods liable to ad-valorem Duty.	Value of Goods admitted free of Duty.	Total Value of Imports.
	£	£	£	£
1861 - -	68,181	55,382	18,575	136,938
1862 - - -	95,777	56,522	14,573	166,872
1863 - - -	89,448	51,882	10,560	157,890
1864 - - -	129,137	46,617	12,915	188,669
1865 - - -	76,977	60,729	13,688	151,394
1866 - - -	87,610	76,270	13,695	177,575
1867 - - -	87,148	76,988	13,188	177,324
1868 - - -	99,836	80,574	18,293	198,709
1869 - - -	106,271	59,493	17,312	183,076
1870 - - -	113,774	63,702	18,576	196,052

The value of imports from the respective sources of importation was as follows :—

Great Britain, 89,000*l.*, or 45·40 per cent.; British West Indian Colonies, 24,833*l.*, or 12·67 per cent.; British North America, 9,492*l.*, or 4·84 per cent.; United States of America, 61,664*l.*, or 31·45 per cent.; foreign possessions, 11,062*l.*, or 5·64 per cent.

EXPORTS.

Year.	SUGAR.			RUM.			MOLASSES.			Barrels of Salt.	Barrels of Potatoes.	Value of other produce.	Value of Exports, produce of Colony.	Value of Exports not the produce of Colony.	Total Value of all Exports.
	Hhds.	Tonnes.	Barrels.	Puns.	Hhds.		Puns.	Hhds.	Barrels.			£	£	£	£
1861	8,651	225	5,478	1,240	18	3,127	8	183	25,540	8,752	233	167	145,933	12,291	158,224
1862	9,765	14	6,444	1,404	20	3,127	—	273	15,168	6,616	275	173	159,886	16,121	175,957
1863	10,508	175	7,359	1,045	16	3,032	2	148	69,848	10,666	441	743	159,152	16,533	175,685
1864	5,188	220	4,776	321	15	1,850	—	12	118,420	23,207	1,458	1,523	110,553	14,455	125,408
1865	11,116	250	9,688	1,147	25	4,626	1	125	169,299	33,308	1,862	1,478	182,689	13,486	196,175
1866	11,022	269	6,770	862	12	3,582	2	124	53,008	32,774	2,520	794	152,922	20,469	173,391
1867	9,457	193	5,420	552	8	3,957	3	82	9,936	23,256	3,796	867	177,806	10,332	188,138
1868	10,914	529	6,130	556	28	4,142	—	75	30,463	12,211	3,075	692	197,949	24,763	222,712
1869	8,936	229	3,691	451	2	3,953	1	48	27,536	17,026	2,070	995	185,719	19,896	206,556
1870	12,111	225	5,253	779	18	4,001	1	97	40,485	14,090	4,137	1,717	244,684	27,678	272,362

Shipping.

St. Kitts.

Year.	With Cargoes.				In Ballast.				Total Tonnage.	
	Ships.		Tonnage.		Ships.		Tonnage.		Ships.	Tonnage.
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.		
1861	315	207	16,434	6,332	68	45	2,092	882	635	25,738
1862	344	184	17,927	7,145	81	53	4,418	378	662	29,868
1863	363	168	19,920	5,579	62	42	3,605	889	635	29,993
1864	338	136	15,279	4,642	100	54	3,883	1,255	622	25,059
1865	322	209	19,337	5,467	58	52	3,286	1,606	641	29,696
1866	292	293	20,230	5,524	108	50	5,580	1,149	743	32,483
1867	307	89	21,517	6,218	86	73	4,769	346	755	32,850
1868	301	337	21,462	6,512	78	98	5,298	1,786	814	35,058
1869	294	299	22,096	5,677	84	84	4,274	288	761	32,335
1870	282	340	21,909	6,086	91	119	5,028	415	832	33,388

	Ships.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	39	12,227
British Colonies	334	14,884
Denmark	17	558
United States of America	17	2,429
Holland	259	1,654
France	28	269
Sweden	134	1,082
Prussia	1	249
Haytien	8	36
	<u>832</u>	<u>33,388</u>

The Immigration Fund (created by an export tax as already shown) was in credit on the 1st of January:—

	£	s.	d.
In English Funds, at interest	-	-	1,266 13 6
„ Local Treasury	„	-	2,129 18 6

The larger portion of the latter sum is on deposit in the Colonial Bank at 4 per cent. interest per annum. A remission of three-fourths of the tax was made by legislative enactment.

Public Debt.

A loan of 9,200*l.* was raised for the purpose of assisting freeholders in the re-erection of their houses after the fire of July, 1867, but even this small sum, although originally applied for before the issuing of the debentures, has not all been taken up, only 8,000*l.* having been advanced to freeholders.

An annual drawing took place, under the provisions of the Act, in October, when five debenture numbers of 100*l.* each were drawn, four of which were paid at the Crown Agent's office in London, and one at the local Treasury.

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Legislation.

Five Acts became law during the year—three for the appropriation of moneys for the public service ; one remitting three-fourths of the export tax for immigration purposes, it being thought unnecessary to increase the fund ; and one renewing the Road Act, with some few alterations. By this latter Act, estates are bound to keep the public road passing through their lines in good order ; the roads are classified and paid for according to the classification. The system may be somewhat arbitrary, but there can be no doubt of its successful working. The compensation allowed by law fully repays for the work performed.

The Resolutions relating to the Federation of the Leeward Islands were passed this year. Opposition was raised against the measure, but the opponents adduced no sound arguments against its adoption, while many in their ranks acknowledged that the scheme presented many useful and beneficial features.

Civil Establishment.

Lieutenant-Governor Cairns resigned the reins of Government in May, and the Honourable Francis Spencer Wigley, Esq., was appointed Administrator. Hugh Riley Semper, Esq., was appointed by Sir B. C. C. Pine to act as Attorney-General and Police Magistrate ; subsequently, upon Mr. Semper's going to England on leave, F. S. Wigley, jun., Esq., was appointed to act in his stead.

Pensions.

Four pensioners receive in the aggregate 50*l.* ; two were privates in the Police Force, and two widows, whose husbands were killed while firing salutes.

Population.

In 1861 was 24,440, being 11,437 males, and 13,003 females. During the year there were 1,251 births against 894 deaths, and 156 marriages—Anglican, 79 ; Wesleyan, 49 ; Moravian, 13 ; Roman Catholic, 15.

Military Expenditure.

The militia consists of two troops of cavalry, consisting collectively of six officers and forty-five men, and one Horse Artillery Corps of two officers and twenty-two privates. The force turns out for drill eight times a year. Arms and ammunition are furnished by the Government, and equipments and clothing by the estates sending troopers. The Horse Artillery are paid 30*l.* per man a year, and the cavalry 25*l.* per man. A special export tax of 4*s.* 2*d.* on every hogshead of sugar shipped creates a fund for this expenditure.

Public Works.

The public buildings all underwent, more or less, repairs. The repair of the Dieppe Bay Pier, the footpaths and channels in the streets in the town of Basseterre, and the painting of the hospital, &c., all tended to swell the outlay for the year. The construction of

the Basseterre Water-works made but little progress ; the reservoir was commenced and the pipe track partially cleared and surveyed. ST. KITTs.

Savings Bank.

There are eight depositors in the bank ; the deposits amount to 91*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* ; the interest is 3 per cent. per annum.

Immigration.

From Madeira, the East Indies, and Africa.

During the last nine years 1,044 persons have arrived and been indentured ; the dates of arrival and nationality were as follows :—

Year.	From			Males.	Females.
	Madeira.	Calcutta.	Africa.		
1861 - -	43	337	..	238	142
1862 - -	50	..	..	25	25
1863 - -	219	..	223	216	226
1866 - -	15	..	..	7	8
1867 - -	51	..	..	34	17
1869 - -	53	..	..	26	27
1870 - -	53	..	..	27	26
	484	337	223	573	471

The greater number of these immigrants, with the exception of some of the East Indians and Portuguese who emigrated to Demerara and Trinidad, have settled in the Colony. The census taken this year (1871) returns their numbers at—Portuguese, 836 ; Africans, 295 ; and East Indians, 61.

Some planters, as they are occasionally pressed for labour during crop, “spasmodically” ask for immigrants, but, as a rule, there is a fair amount of labour in the Colony ; an annual importation to the extent of 100 persons would always suffice to stimulate native industry.

The increased production of the soil with the small addition, as shown by the Table, of imported labour and the unaltered rate of wage for field-work, would imply that labour was, if not abundant, sufficient. The limit of cultivation has been almost arrived at in this Colony ; for increased prosperity the planters must look to machinery. Therefore, on the one hand, a moderate supply of labour to be provided by immigration as a stimulus will suffice ; on the other, greater intelligence will be required for the manipulation of more complicated sugar works ; for this purpose a higher wage would attract the mechanic to the performance of these duties, as his resources are ever precarious, and his pay ranges from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* a day, while the number of artisans far exceeds the ordinary demand for their services.

Education.

I append to this Report a letter from the Inspector of Schools, to which I beg reference. The number of schools receiving Govern-

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ment aid is 28—Anglican 13, on the books, 1,093 scholars; Wesleyan 9, on the books, 1,016 scholars; Moravian 6, on the books, 792 scholars. The total number of children on the books is 2,901, and the average attendance 1,732.

The following Table exhibits the number of schools, average attendance, &c., for the last ten years:—

COMPARATIVE ANNUAL SCHOOL RETURN.

Year.	No. of Schools receiving Government Aid.	Average Attendance.	Equal by law to	Amount of School-pence.
1861 - -	27	1,416	1,079	£ 282 2 9
1862 - -	25	1,373	1,119	258 13 6
1863 - -	26	1,422	1,109	270 1 2
1864 - -	24	1,243	979	239 7 6
1865 - -	27	1,367	1,042	272 16 8
1866 - -	26	1,347	1,146	286 19 11
1867 - -	25	1,464	1,257	294 7 10
1868 - -	27	1,746	1,451	332 9 1
1869 - -	28	1,700	1,451	316 17 10
1870 - -	28	1,732	1,485	318 5 2

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

The births show an increase of 17 over the previous year, while the deaths exhibit a decrease of 17. The number of births, in excess of deaths, for the year was 357. Marriages maintain the number of last year:—

BIRTHS.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
1,140	1,098	1,211	1,245	1,212	1,232	1,273	1,236	1,234	1,251

DEATHS.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
894	877	947	881	786	724	902	1,021	962	894

MARRIAGES.

1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
111	140	93	74	120	107	88	161	158	156

General.

I am glad to be enabled to close this Report by adverting to the very satisfactory condition of the agricultural body in this island. The sugar crop was in excess of that of 1869, and the continued importation of additional and improved machinery must tend still more

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to develop the resources of this fertile island. Continued energy and machinery must be the stand-by for the future ; the land is cultivated almost to its utmost limit, and ever grateful in return for careful tillage and good manuring, it has yielded its increase in bountiful harvests. Improved quality of sugar must now be the planters' aim, and I see no reason why Barbados and Demerara should hold the palm for "brighter straw" or "finer crystal" than St. Christopher. As already noticed, immigration to a limited extent will confer some benefit on the agriculturists.

Commerce has not achieved an equal amount of success as agriculture, but propitious seasons and heavy exports will soon resuscitate trade, and revivify embers of prosperity that have been temporarily dimmed by the difficulties attendant upon the fire of 1867, and the reaction of an unnatural and stimulated trade immediately subsequent thereto.

The sanitary state of the Island has been good throughout the year ; no epidemic appeared in our midst ; health, in conjunction with good seasons and crops, have conduced to the comfort and happiness of our people, who as a rule are contented, law abiding, and loyal.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Secretary to Government.

Enclosure 3 in No. 14.

Enclosure 3
in No. 14.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Basseterre, St. Christopher, ,
October 14, 1871.

SIR,

In furnishing you with a short report on the condition of the St. Christopher Grammar School, for the year 1870, I am sorry to have to say that my anticipations of a gradual recovery from the diminution in numbers consequent on the fire of 1867 have met with no degree of realization.

During the four quarters of last year the scholars numbered, respectively, 11, 12, 12, and 9, in each instance, including one of my own sons.

During the quarter ending June 30th, 1870, the extent to which sickness was prevalent among the boys generally was such as to render regular class-work an impossibility, and to make the quarter practically lost as to sound progress in study.

I have throughout seen a fair number of boys whose age and position should make them eligible for the Grammar School, but I also know thoroughly well that their parents are unable to meet the expense, low though the scale of fees may appear, of sending them, anxious as, I also of my own knowledge can affirm, some of them are that they should have the benefits of an education which they have no chance of elsewhere obtaining.

More docile, well-conducted boys than have uniformly come under

St. Kitts.

my notice here, I could not wish to find; it is an extremely rare exception for a boy, after his first few days at the school, to show the slightest symptom of recalcitrance, impertinence, sulkiness, or obstinacy, or to give me any cause to complain of want of industry during school-hours.

Such boys as have come in long distances from the country—six to seven miles—have mainly turned out failures, the opportunities for playing truant without immediate discovery being too tempting and too easy.

On the whole, I cannot speak hopefully of the prospects of the school, and can only see the way to a better state of affairs should the school, by means of boarding accommodation, be attended from this and the neighbouring islands—whence tolerably frequent inquiries come as to the possibility of receiving boys—by at least from 30 to 40 scholars; with numbers not less than these there might be some hope of counterbalancing, by emulation and ambition, the lamentable want of energy, due to the climate, which must always, even under the most favourable circumstances, be a drawback in tropical schools. As things have of late been with us, the only remedy applicable, seeing that the amount of confinement during school-hours is quite as much as in this part of the world is consistent with health, is bodily punishment, which in England I can hardly recall an instance of my being obliged to employ for shortcomings in lessons, being able there to reserve it, as I would desire to do, for more or less serious moral offences.

Both as regards the Grammar School and the Industrial Schools in this Island, I am anxiously and, I must add, very hopefully awaiting the action to arise from the scheme of Federation soon to be expected to come into operation.

Though not bearing upon matters of last year, it may not be out of the way to mention finally that, during the present year, two boys have come to the school from the rising portion of the coloured class, and from this source I have reason to expect more; to them the gain will be very great, provided that the staple element of the school should remain as heretofore, white.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HENRY W. MARSHALL, M.A.,

*Principal of the Grammar School, and H.M. Inspector of Schools
in the Island of St. Christopher.*

The Hon. C. M. Eldridge, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

NEVIS.

NEVIS.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Administrator WIGLEY to The
OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 192.)

SIR,

St. Christopher, October 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of Nevis for
1870, together with a report thereon, from Mr. Eldridge, the Colonial
Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Officer administering
the Government, Antigua.

(Signed) F. SPENCER WIGLEY.

Enclosure in No. 15.

Enclosure in
No. 15.

NEVIS BLUE BOOK REPORT.

Finance.

It is gratifying to find that, after due provision for the public departments and institutions, and a liberal expenditure on the roads, the balances in hand at the close of the year bears a favourable comparison with those of the past two years. Thus 1868 closed with a balance of 1,414*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; 1869 with a balance of 4,790*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and 1870 with a balance of 7,216*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, of which 5,755*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* belonged to the General Revenue, and 1,461*l.* 8*s.* 0*½d.* to the Road Fund.

The sources of revenue remain unaltered, with the exception of the repeal of the Act (in the middle of the year) levying an additional 25 per cent. upon imports and exports, &c., for the especial purpose of augmenting the Road Fund. The larger proportion of revenue is derived from import duties, yielding 5,477*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; exports, 1,316*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; tonnage, 489*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; licences, 540*l.*; these sums are supplemented by—fines, Police Court, 181*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*; fees, Registrar and Marshal, 84*l.* 5*s.* 8*½d.*; Post Office, 61*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*; miscellaneous receipts, comprising interest on Bank deposits, Governor's fees, rents, &c., 190*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* In addition to these sums the horse and carriage tax gave 266*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, and the statute labour tax, 221*l.* 4*s.*, which amounts were carried to the Road Fund. These several receipts made a total revenue of 8,829*l.* 18*s.* 5*½d.*

The expenditure has been nearly 800*l.* in excess of the previous year; this may readily be accounted for by the increased expenditure on the roads and public buildings, together with the salaries (for broken periods of the year) of two of the district medical officers and Superintendent of Public Works, and the pension of two public officers.

The saving effected by the union of the Treasury and Customs, and rigid surveillance of the public accounts, will go far, it is hoped, to

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counterbalance the additional charges for the medical officers at the rate of 600*l.* per annum, and for the Superintendent of Public Works, 230*l.*

The revenue and expenditure of the past four years were as follow :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
1867 - - - -	6,248	5,352
1868 - - - -	8,058	6,676
1869 - - - -	9,006	5,631
1870 - - - -	8,830	6,404

The returns give the value of imports and exports at the following figures, for the years 1867 to 1870 :—

	Imports.	Exports.
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
1867 - - - -	40,656	31,021
1868 - - - -	54,808	Return unreliable.
1869 - - - -	61,013	57,668
1870 - - - -	54,286	64,119

Great Britain sends 17,466*l.* ; British North America, 2,378*l.* ; British West Indies, St. Christopher, 18,033*l.* ; Barbados, 9,525*l.*, and other Colonies, 851*l.* ; United States of America, 5,230*l.* ; Foreign West India Possessions, 773*l.*

It is worthy of observance, that out of about 37,000*l.* worth of imports, the greater portion of which are of United States' growth and manufacture, only 5,230*l.* are of direct import. These goods being thus subjected to heavy intercolonial charges of freight and commission, are necessarily much enhanced in cost to the consumer ; a diminution in port and import dues might encourage a direct trade, which an increased consumption, fostered by cheaper goods, would readily recoup to the Treasury. A readjustment of the tariff is imperatively needed ; food and necessities of life are charged a much higher percentage than luxuries, while the table of exemptions embraces many articles, which might fairly be made to contribute to the general taxation. Silks, jewelry, wines, and spirits, pay the same duty, 8 per cent. ad valorem, as cottons and common articles of clothing ; flour, meal, and rice pay from 10 to 15 per cent. ; pork pays 20 per cent. ; while manures, mills, steam-engines, stills, sugar-pans, furnaces, ploughs, and carts, are exempt from any duty.

Legislative.

The legislation of the past year embraces many useful measures, the most important of which may be classified and noticed as follows :—

Fiscal.

The Act for uniting the offices of the Treasury and Customs, and placing them under the supervision of one officer, at a salary of 300*l.* per annum, has economy and greater efficiency to recommend it ; further legislation provides for the appointment of a clerk at 80*l.* per

annum, to assist in the in-door department of the united establishments. The Act placing an additional 25 per centum on imports, exports, &c., was repealed in the middle of the year, as the Road Fund, to which its proceeds were specially appropriated, had at the time an accumulated balance sufficient for the contemplated improvement and repairs of the roads. Acts providing for the pensions of two retired public officers were passed during the year.

Judicial.

The Act to afford summary redress for the unlawful detention of property gives the magistrate jurisdiction to the value of 20*l.*; the provisions are full and remedies effectual.

The Act to provide for appeals from summary convictions and orders before justices of the peace, provides an appeal against "any decision" as against the restriction in the old Act, which only allowed an appeal upon "a conviction."

The Act uniting the offices of Marshal and Registrar promises facilities to suitors by enabling them to transact their business with one department instead of two; but a junior officer to assist in recording and comparing deeds and documents, and to take charge of the office during the Registrar's absence on duty in Court or otherwise, is absolutely necessary.

Agricultural.

The Act extending the provisions of the Act for regulating the rights and duties of masters and servants, had for its object the encouragement of the introduction and indenture of intercolonial emigrants under a service of three years; 38 immigrants have been indentured under its provisions.

General.

The Act providing for the appointment of a Superintendent of Public Works to take charge of all public buildings, piers, roads, and bridges, securing the undivided attention of a salaried officer, under the immediate control of the Governor, cannot fail to ensure greater economy and better care of the public interest.

The Medical Aid Act provides for the appointment of three district medical officers, who afford gratuitous medical and surgical aid to children under 10 years of age, and adults over 60 years' of the labouring population and to the members of the Police Force. It further provides for medical and surgical aid to any labourer at a moderate scale of charges fixed by the Governor in Council. The benefits to be derived from this Act cannot be over-estimated.

The Nevis Infirmary Act provides for the transfer of an old, but it is to be feared much-neglected establishment to the Government care, and it is to be hoped that under greater surveillance it may conduce more to the comfort of the sick and needy.

The Act regulating the hours within which shops for the retail of spirituous and other liquors shall be kept open, has already worked to advantage.

Several other Acts of minor importance have become law.

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Agriculture.

The crops of the past eight years are as follows :—

		Sugar.			Rum.	Molasses.
		H.	T.	R.	pusa.	pusa.
1863	- - -	2,633	394	7,527	32	1,095
1864	- - -	917	54	3,222	2	481
1865	- - -	2,008	100	7,205	41	1,114
1866	- - -	2,336	90	7,259	58	1,012
1867	- - -	1,385	37	5,300	6	494
1868	- - -	2,772	105	5,717	5	1,309
1869	- - -	2,644	139	7,307	2	1,341
1870	- - -	2,725	160	7,680	—	1,618

Increased capital, improved machinery, extended cultivation, have failed materially to improve the crops of the Island, and why? Have the seasons been unpropitious? or have the thews and sinews been lacking in the care, reaping, and manufacture of the produce? The answer is undeniable, the want of labour cripples the energy and limits the operations of the agriculturist. The apathy of the labourer is the planter's bane; the prospect of reward fails to stimulate him to exertion; offers of continuous service produce no attraction; erratic habits, love of change and pleasure, disregard for the morrow, inexpensiveness of living, either as to food or clothing, together with the salubrity of climate, all combine to produce in the native labourer an indisposition for steady employment. Nevis from its peculiar geological features is precluded from using implemental husbandry to any extent. The masses of rock that are seen cropping up in every direction are heaped in every variety of form or are scattered broadcast upon the face of the land, defy the plough, and manual labour must be resorted to. The only remedy for this state of things is immigration, and this is only required to a limited extent; 200 or 300 indentured Coolies or Portuguese would be sufficient, on the one hand, to stimulate the native labourer to industrious habits; and on the other, to place the agriculturist, in emergent cases, with the aid of the better disposed and more domesticated natives, in an independent position of extraneous assistance. The aid of the Government is urgently needed to prevent this fertile island from relapsing into difficulties; a helping hand may not only avert impending retrogradation, but may open a prosperous pathway for a generous emulation with the neighbouring colony of St. Christopher.

Public Works.

The various public buildings have undergone more or less repair, at a cost of 250*l*. Increased shipping accommodation is urgently needed at Charlestown and New Castle. A bridge on the main road from town to New Castle is required for safety, as well as to facilitate traffic; the road, through a dead sand, is at all times laborious, while heavy rains or high surfs cause a treacherous shifting sand, alike dangerous to man and beast. There is a marked improvement in the condition of the roads in the parishes of St. Thomas, and it is to be hoped that in a short time the roads of this Colony will be in a most satisfactory condition.

Education.

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The returns from the clergymen of the Anglican Church give the following results :—Two new school-rooms have been erected and one considerably enlarged, at an expense of about 390*l*. The average attendance in these schools is 432. The cost of maintenance was 201*l*. 5*s*. 5*d*. The Legislature gave no grant towards the erection and extension of the school-rooms. The expense of maintenance was raised, 88*l*. from English funds, 44*l*. 12*s*. 2*d*. from fees, 47*l*. 6*s*. 8*d*. from the Legislature, and 21*l*. 6*s*. 7*d*. from other sources. The schools of the Wesleyan Church gave an average attendance of 502, and the expense of maintenance 182*l*.—from the Legislative Assembly 50*l*., fees 72*l*., and other sources 60*l*.

Savings Bank.

The want of such an institution under Government control is much needed, and the Legislature having taken the matter in hand, the people will doubtless soon have a safe depository for their earnings.

Political Franchise.

The five elected members in the Legislative Assembly were returned during the year. The votes recorded were,—St. Paul's, 17 ; St. John, 7 ; St. George, 4 ; St. James, 14 ; St. Thomas 7. The qualification is a property one of 4*l*. 8*s*. 10*d*. per annum. This limited use of the franchise does not evince much interest in the political affairs of the Colony.

Marriages, Births, and Deaths.

The returns show 137 marriages, 572 births, and 331 deaths for the year.

General Remarks.

Amongst the most notable of the Acts of the Legislative Assembly this year, was the passing of the Resolutions relating to the Federation of the Leeward Islands. The measure was unpopular ; partially from want of information, which when offered few would listen to, partially from fear that the overwhelming influences of the larger Colonies would create offices and cause increased expenditure and taxation ; and in a great measure from personal hostility to the talented Governor who inaugurated the scheme. The ratification of the Imperial Act by Her Gracious Majesty will be the signal for the Nevians to display that loyalty and law-abiding love, on which they justly pride themselves. They failed to sustain their opposition to the measure, but will then accept their position and do all they can to test the efficiency and well-working of the scheme. Time will gradually heal personal animosities, and Federation will develop its usefulness. A common interest and a closer bond of union will tend to rouse ambition, develop latent abilities and resources, and these hitherto small and unknown but brilliant isolated spots in the Caribbean Sea, will acquire status, invite capital, and uncultivated acres will resume their pristine verdure, and "the wealth of the Indies" will no longer be a thing of the past. The Medical Aid Bill indirectly and directly affects immigration, both in the case of those

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already here and those who may soon be expected. Adults over 60 years of age and children under 10 years of age are gratuitously provided for; while all labourers, including handicraftsmen, menial and predial servants, boatmen and porters, are attended under a moderate scale of charges fixed by the Governor in Council; and all persons suffering from prolonged illness, or who from age or infirmity are unable to earn their subsistence, are duly provided for.

Taxation is not excessive, amounting to about 15s. 1d. per head, and with diligent collection is sufficient for the wants of the Colony. A readjusted tariff (to which I have already alluded), a modification of the Complaint Court fees, and a repeal of the statute labour tax would be desirable. With reference to the Complaint Court, magisterial jurisdiction should be allowed for petty debts to the extent of 40s. and no appeal, and the statute labour should be abolished. The records of crime exhibit no offences of any magnitude; petty thefts are more common than they ought to be, and that regard for the property of one's neighbour is much ignored, while the punishment of incarceration affords no terror to the thief; wholesome diet, good clothing, and moderate labour, in many instances offer a premium to idleness and vice. The gaol is too small for the introduction of shot drill, or the treadmill, while the nominal hard labour of breaking stones, sweeping streets, or weeding trenches is not to be compared to the physical exertions of the honest labourer who literally earns his bread by the sweat of his brow.

The health of the Colony has been good, no epidemic has existed, while the ordinary tropical diseases have in no way increased the usual mortality. General good order and obedience to the laws of the land are manifested throughout the community.

I have &c.,

(Signed) C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Colonial Secretary.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

VIRGIN
ISLANDS.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President MOIR to Lieutenant-Governor MUNDY.

(No. 93.)

SIR,

Tortola, May 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

2. I have no remarks to offer on the method of taxation and collection of duties pursued here, at variance with or supplementary to those which I had the honour to submit to the Governor-in-Chief in my Despatches, No. 11, of the 24th January, and No. 51, of the 11th June, 1870.

Fees.

3. Ordinance No. 3, of 1870, was enacted so as "To appropriate to the public service the fees which are now payable to the President of the Virgin Islands and his Private Secretary." That Ordinance became law on the 2nd day of June. The fees payable to the Government and to other public officers continue as before, as fully reported in my Despatch, No. 49, of the 28th May, 1870, and in the Blue Book returns for 1869.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The revenue and expenditure for the last three years are shown in the following Tables:—

REVENUE.

	1868.			1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	1,849	11	9	1,088	1	10	1,013	8	1½
Licences -	159	19	6	171	11	8½	230	17	9½
Taxes -	240	7	3	326	0	1½	364	18	5½
Post Office	13	14	7½	12	8	4	16	19	6½
Fines and penalties	47	15	4½	21	5	8½	29	8	9½
Wrecks -	15	19	11½	5	10	6½	318	18	0
President fees	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	0
Miscellaneous -	52	5	3½	30	7	4	81	0	3
	2,379	13	9½	1,655	5	7½	2,058	17	0
Balances from previous years	25	14	7½	321	4	8	6	17	1
	£2,405	8	5½	1,976	9	8½	2,065	14	1

VIRGIN
ISLANDS.

EXPENDITURE.

	1868.			1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Treasurer's Department - - -							299	15	0½
Judicial " - - -							25	1	4½
Provost Marshal " - - -							200	0	0
Ecclesiastical Department - - -							122	0	0
Charitable " - - -							230	12	6½
Educational " - - -							120	0	0
Roads and Bridges - - -							48	10	6
Police - - -							66	7	8
Post Office - - -							54	19	0½
Goal - - -	2,084	4	4	1,969	12	7½	192	12	11½
Public Buildings - - -							134	16	1½
Board of Health - - -							26	19	11½
Printing and Stationery - - -							56	8	1½
Registration of B. and D. - - -							17	12	0
Inquests - - -							15	17	7½
Office Contingencies - - -							19	18	9½
Militia - - -							1	18	11½
Steamer 'Telegrafo' - - -							276	8	9½
Debts due and paid - - -							49	16	6½
	2,084	4	4	1,969	12	7½	1,953	11	1½
Balances to following years - -	821	4	1½	6	17	1	112	2	11½
	£2,405	8	5½	1,976	9	8½	2,065	14	1

Previously to 1870 the Treasurer's cash-book had been made up without exhibiting clearly the various receipts and charges in each department, classed separately under their different heads. That defect has now been remedied, and the receipts and expenditure under every head and for any portion of the year can be immediately ascertained.

Legislation.

5. The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during 1870:—

Ordinance No. 1, 1870. To enable the Chief Judge of the General Court to hold special courts for the transaction of business not requiring a jury.

Ordinance No. 2, 1870. The appropriation of Revenue Ordinance for the year 1870.

Ordinance No. 3, 1870. To appropriate to the public service the fees which are now payable to the President of the Virgin Islands and his Private Secretary.

Ordinance No. 4, 1870. To provide for taking a census of the inhabitants of these islands.

Ordinance No. 5, 1870. Petty Sessions Amendment Ordinance for the year 1870.

Ordinance No. 6, 1870. For granting a retiring allowance to Wm. Wright King, of these islands.

Ordinance No. 7, 1870. The Supplemental Road Ordinance, 1870.

But by far the most important work of the Council was the adoption by it on the 10th August of certain "Resolutions" approving of the

Federation of the Leeward Islands into one Colony, and respectfully requesting Her Majesty's Government to cause such "Resolutions" to be embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament, together with all such provisions as might be necessary to give them full force and effect. These "Resolutions," together with my speech, and the reply of the Council, were transmitted in my Despatch, No. 61, of the 12th August, were approved by the Governor-in-Chief, and subsequently, in a special manner, by the Secretary of State. It will be here necessary to quote only the last paragraph of that speech, as showing the views I then held, and the hopes I at that time entertained. "In referring you to the unanimity with which this measure was accepted by the Legislative Council of Antigua, which I was fortunate enough to witness, and to the prospect of its receiving the sanction of other independent colonies to windward, I cannot but congratulate you on this invitation to be associated in a work which, it is my opinion, should not be permitted to terminate with, or be confined to the Leeward Islands, but that, embracing all the sister colonies in the Caribbean Sea, which may willingly unite with us, we should, without much delay, grasp the friendly hand of the Dominion which not long ago was held out to us, in the hope and expectation that those mutual benefits which would by such a union accrue to the north and to the south may be realized, and the children of one great parent Government, divergent for long in their immediate pursuits and dwelling-places, may once more in a political and mercantile union converge for their mutual advantage; and I can conceive that our common country will view with much satisfaction the realization of her hope that those who have long left her to fight their several independent parts in the battle of life are not unmindful of their common origin, but now evince anxiety to draw closer that connection of which she was the author, and of which I hope she may ever continue the nucleus and support."

Population.

6. In the expectation that the Blue Book returns would be completed and placed in my hands long ere this, I had compiled certain tables embracing information for the last ten years, in anticipation of the general census which was taken on the 5th of last month. Besides the check on the census returns, which these tables would afford if correctly and regularly kept, I think other useful ends will be obtained by their publication. The annual compilation which ought to have been made by the Registrar-General from the District Registrar's returns has been, so far as I can discover, totally neglected. The labour in compiling the last ten years has consequently been considerable, and in all probability we cannot safely pronounce it free from errors; but I trust that for the future those useful tables may be carefully prepared from year to year, with such improvements as time and experience shall suggest; for they will, to some extent, constitute a social meter, showing the state of morals and health in each district in the Virgin Islands, which may be referred to with some degree of confidence for reliable information on these important subjects, and to which the necessary remedies may from time to time be applied.

VIRGIN
ISLANDS.

BIRTHS.

District.	Year.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.	District.	Year.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.
		M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.	
A B C D E F	1861	16	12	3	4	35	A B C D E F	1866	13	13	3	4	33
		17	10	1	3	31			13	7	3	3	26
		9	1	2	3	15			6	5	4	6	21
		37	23	21	18	99			15	21	14	20	70
		7	4	8	4	23			4	4	8	4	20
F	3	9	5	2	19	F	8	7	1	—	16		
		89	59	40	34	222			59	57	33	37	186
A B C D E F	1862	19	17	3	8	47	A B C D E F	1867	15	8	6	2	31
		8	7	2	2	19			7	14	—	1	22
		3	3	3	3	12			9	6	5	7	27
		22	21	23	21	87			26	21	16	25	88
		11	6	7	5	29			3	11	6	2	22
F	9	4	4	4	21	F	2	5	1	4	12		
		72	58	42	43	215			62	65	34	41	202
A B C D E F	1863	20	17	10	4	51	A B C D E F	1868	14	10	2	1	27
		13	13	7	2	35			7	12	1	—	20
		6	6	4	6	22			7	5	4	4	20
		26	30	36	23	115			25	11	22	7	65
		8	8	8	5	29			7	3	3	5	18
F	9	5	6	3	23	F	4	5	1	3	13		
		82	79	71	43	275			64	46	33	20	163
A B C D E F	1864	19	14	5	5	43	A B C D E F	1869	10	13	4	—	27
		11	9	—	1	21			16	7	1	4	28
		2	1	4	10	17			2	3	6	13	24
		19	32	27	22	100			27	26	16	14	83
		7	7	8	5	27			6	4	3	5	18
F	5	7	4	2	18	F	10	1	1	4	16		
		63	70	48	45	226			71	54	31	40	196
A B C D E F	1865	10	16	5	6	37	A B C D E F	1870	9	15	5	4	33
		19	10	1	1	31			5	4	—	1	10
		8	5	3	3	19			8	7	1	7	23
		30	18	21	19	88			20	27	28	25	100
		6	6	9	5	26			2	5	3	5	15
F	4	3	6	1	14	F	7	6	2	2	17		
		77	58	45	35	215			51	64	39	44	198

Period.	District.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Totals.
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
For ten years, from 1861 to 1870 in- clusive	A	145	135	46	38	364
	B	116	98	16	18	243
	C	60	42	36	62	200
	D	247	230	224	194	895
	E	61	58	63	45	227
	F	61	52	31	25	169
		690	610	416	382	2,098

Although the result is not quite so bad as in others of the West India Islands, the above Tables disclose a very low state of morality.

VIRGIN
ISLANDS.

MARRIAGES.

Years.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	Totals.
1861 - - -	10	—	6	22	—	2	40
1862 - - -	6	1	2	17	2	1	29
1863 - - -	6	5	1	12	—	2	26
1864 - - -	6	—	6	15	5	3	35
1865 - - -	7	—	3	12	—	1	23
1866 - - -	1	4	6	16	—	—	27
1867 - - -	2	2	1	27	—	9	41
1868 - - -	9	3	2	28	10	3	55
1869 - - -	4	3	2	13	0	—	28
1870 - - -	10	2	2	13	5	3	35
	61	20	31	175	28	24	339

Education.

7. The grant of money which this Colony can afford to set apart for educational purposes is so very small, that when partitioned among the thirteen teachers in the Church and Wesleyan schools, we cannot expect instructors of great ability can be procured for the insignificant salaries allotted to each. However, I can speak favourably of the principal Wesleyan school and its teacher, who is efficient and successful; and his Lordship the Bishop is most desirous to secure an able master for the Church school in town, when he shall be able to induce a capable man to undertake the charge in this Island.

Imports and Exports.

8. The value of the imports and exports for the last two years was as follows:—

	Imports.			Exports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1869 - - -	6,120	6	2½	8,210	0	6
1870 - - -	4,425	5	4	6,808	7	3
	<u>£1,695 0 10½</u>			<u>£1,401 13 3</u>		

There has, however, been only an apparent falling off in the value of imports, for by the occurrence of a valuable wreck on the Anegada reef—the same on which the unfortunate Royal mail ship ‘Paramatta’ was lost—goods to the value of upwards of 3,500*l.* were saved, and thrown into the general market. Legitimate importations must necessarily have diminished, but the duty received on these wrecked goods contributed to the maintenance of the general revenue.

Gaol.

9. This building continues in the same condition as when I reported on the Blue Book for 1869, and in my Despatch, No. 84, of the 26th December last, in reply to the Secretary of State’s Despatch, No. 15, of 8th August, 1870, upon the same subject. I am happy to be able to speak of the little use the cells have been put to since

that date; and judging from outward appearances, and the small number of persons committed during the year, we must hope that the social and moral condition of the people is improving, and that an advance has been made towards a purer and happier state of things in the future.

VIRGIN
ISLANDS.

10. Fine and seasonable weather contributed to the material comfort and the physical health of the mass of the population, and I hope that by next mail I shall be in a position to give reliable statistics of the number, and other useful particulars of the people, who appear contented with their present condition.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEX. W. MOIR.

Lieut.-Governor Mundy,
&c. &c. &c.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor FREELING to
The OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(No. 37.)

SIR, Government House, Roseau, May 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1870, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. FREELING,

The Officer Administering the Government, Lieut.-Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Enclosure in
No. 17.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK RETURNS OF DOMINICA FOR THE YEAR 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to 15,721*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; the expenditure to 15,248*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*

In 1869 the revenue was 15,620*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; expenditure, 13,947*l.* 16*s.* 7½*d.*

Compared with 1869 there is a decrease on two sources of revenue of about 1,642*l.*, thus:—

Loan Liquidation Account	-	-	-	-	£	1,441
Harbour dues	-	-	-	-	-	105

The Act of 1866, which, by imposing an additional duty of 10 per cent. on all imports, provided for the payment of a loan of 4,100*l.*,

DOMINICA.

expired at the end of 1869; and there being no further necessity for its continuance, it was not re-enacted. The small sum appearing to the credit of this account in the Blue Book is the amount of arrears of the former year collected in 1870. The decrease of 105*l.* on harbour dues is explained by the fact that last year fewer vessels entered this port.

2. There has been an increase of revenue on nearly all the other items amounting to 1,743*l.*, thus:—

Import duties	-	-	-	-	-	-	£	173
Excise—Rum duty	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	172
Liquor and still licences	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	279
Road composition money	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	454
Ordnance property (arrears of rent)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

The result is therefore very favourable, because, although there has been an important reduction in the taxation, yet the revenue for the year 1870 exceeded that of the former year by 100*l.*

Expenditure.

3. In comparison with 1869, there is a decrease in several items of expenditure of about 1,511*l.*, thus:—

Public works and buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	£	461
Board of Health	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	175
Printing and stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120
Loan Liquidation Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	619

The increase of expenditure on certain accounts amounts to about 2,811*l.*, namely:—

Roads	-	-	-	-	-	-	£	1,304
Hurricane Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	812
Town Wardens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	153
Grant to Road Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	370
Grant on a public garden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

Of the above amounts, that expended on “roads” represents, first, the salaries of registrars of births, &c., which, by reason of a mistake in the new Road Act, are now payable from the Road Fund instead of being paid from the general revenue; secondly, extensive extra repairs to the various roads, and part payment of the expense of opening an entirely new road from the leeward to the windward side of the Island; and thirdly, contributions from the Road Fund towards the expense of erecting an iron bridge.

Hurricane Loan.

4. This was the first renewed instalment of the Hurricane Loan of 1836, the payment of which has to be completed by similar annual instalments during eleven years from the date of the first renewed payment.

Town Wardens.

5. This grant was to place the streets of Roseau in a better state of repair.

The grant to the Road Fund was in aid of the new bridge over the Roseau River.

Thus it will be seen that, with the exception of the Hurricane Loan, the extra expenditure has been on useful public works.

Civil Establishment.

6. The Reverend W. T. Roper, Rector of St. George, died during the year. No new appointment has been made.

Works and Buildings.

7. All the public buildings have been repaired, but Government House will require re shingling in 1872.

An iron bridge, at a cost of about 400*l.*, has been erected over the Roseau River, to the great advantage of the inhabitants of Roseau and of a considerable number of the country population.

A new road has been opened across a considerable tract of country, and brings several of the estates on the windward side into easier communication with the capital.

Public Debt.

8. The amount due to the Imperial Government on account of the Hurricane Loan of 1836 was, at the close of 1870, 7,230*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Legislative Enactments.

9. Fourteen laws were passed, the most important of which were :—

An Act for the introduction of the Electric Telegraph—a measure that has always contributed towards the welfare and prosperity of communities and of individuals.

A new Road Act, which is an improvement upon the old.

An Act to consolidate the Laws relating to Quarantine, which gives more power to the Board of Health to stamp out contagious and infectious diseases.

A Resolution for the Federation of Dominica with the other Leeward Islands, a measure which I am confident will bring increased prosperity to this Island.

Thus, as regards legislative enactments, the past year has not been barren in useful results.

Population.

10. The Registrar-General returns the population at 28,517.

The population in 1869 was 27,124.

In 1870 there were 875 births against 746 in 1869.

In 1870 there were 95 marriages against 92 in 1869.

In 1870 there were 483 deaths against 504 in 1869.

DOMINICA.

Education.

11. There are eighteen Government schools: the number of scholars are—boys, 804; girls, 484, being an increase of 99 scholars.

The schools in Roseau are well managed. Of those in the country I am glad to be able to make generally a more favourable report than I have hitherto been able.

The Inspector is zealous, and anxious to carry into effect any of my suggestions and instructions as regards improvement in teaching.

Imports.

12. The total declared value of imports was 60,277*l.*, being 4,488 less than in 1869.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom was 22,505*l.*; British Colonies, 30,926*l.*; foreign countries, 6,846*l.*

Although less than those of the preceding year, they are much larger than those of 1868. A portion of this decrease may be attributed to the late war, and that supplies to both the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe have been stopped, from which large quantities of goods are exported to this Island.

Exports.

13. The declared value of exports was 62,246*l.*, against, in 1869, 57,831*l.*

The quantity of sugar exported was 4,599 hhds., against, in 1869, 4,084 hhds.

Shipping Returns.

14. The shipping returns show—

INWARDS WITH CARGO.

From	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - - -	15	3,026	123	10	2,152	103
British Colonies - - -	92	3,510	408	92	4,053	422
Foreign Countries - - -	153	3,006	550	89	904	300
	260	9,542	1,081	191	7,109	825

INWARDS IN BALLAST.

Where from.	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Colonies - - -	47	623	139	48	858	138
Foreign Countries - - -	60	1,505	187	27	264	84
	107	2,188	326	75	1,122	222

OUTWARDS WITH CARGO.

Where for.	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - -	16	3,145	136	16	3,433	161
British Colonies - -	130	3,273	500	131	3,352	490
Foreign Countries - -	150	2,111	520	108	1,710	386
	296	8,529	1,156	255	8,495	1,037

OUTWARDS IN BALLAST.

Where for.	1869.			1870.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crew.
Great Britain - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Colonies - -	23	565	90	7	53	20
Foreign Countries - -	46	1,434	155	23	267	64
	69	1,999	245	30	320	84

Lands.

15. The acreage of the Colony is said to be 186,436. The estates in cultivation amount to 188.

Forty-nine new grants, comprising 961 acres of Crown land, were issued.

361*l.* have been collected, and 528*l.* are still due and are payable by instalments.

Gaols and Prisoners.

16. There is one gaol in the Island; it is in Roseau: 248 prisoners were committed in 1870; 285 were committed in 1869.

1870.—Classified.	Men.	Women.	Total.
Debtors - - - -	38	10	48
Road defaulters - - - -	13	20	33
Petty thefts - - - -	28	9	37
Other offences - - - -	98	32	130
	177	71	248

The system now pursued at the gaol is more deterrent in its effects than formerly.

Charitable Institutions.

17. These comprise the Poor-house, Lunatic Asylum, Infirmary, and the Roman Catholic Orphanage.

DOMINICA.*General Remarks.*

18. I have every reason to be satisfied with the present financial position of the Island, as notwithstanding the great reduction of taxation and the increased extra expenditure of 804*l.*, from payment of the first renewed instalment of the Hurricane Loan, 1836, I have been enabled to keep the expenditure within 473*l.* of the revenue, and at the same time to make several important public improvements, such as roads, bridges, repair of public buildings, &c.

There was also a balance at the end of the year amounting to 4,480*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

I consider this Island to be slowly but steadily progressing; and considering the advantages that are likely to accrue from its Federation with the sister islands of the Leeward Group, there is every probability of a still further advance in prosperity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) S. FREELING,
Lieut.-Governor.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHANCERY CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

R E P O R T S

ON THE

PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1870.

PART II.—EASTERN COLONIES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1872.



L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1872.

[C.—583.] Price 9d.

SCHEDULE.

EASTERN COLONIES.

No. in Series.	Colony.	Page.
1	CEYLON - - - - -	3
2	HONG KONG - - - - -	22
3	LABUAN - - - - -	56
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PART II.

CEYLON.

No. 1.

CEYLON.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir HERCULES ROBINSON,
K.C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.
(No. 226.)

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,

MY LORD,

September 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1870, and to submit the following Report on its contents :—

Revenue and Expenditure.

2.	The revenue for 1870 was - - - - -	£ 1,091,606
	The expenditure for ditto - - - - -	1,026,870
		<hr/>
	Excess of revenue over expenditure -	£64,736

3. As compared with that of 1869, the revenue of 1870 shows an increase of 145,112*l*. This increase is altogether attributable to the changes which took place on the 1st January, 1870, in connection with the Sinking Fund. From that date the export duties were abolished, and the railway receipts were carried to credit of revenue, an annual contribution to the Sinking Fund of 58,000*l*. for 14 years being made chargeable upon the general revenue of the Colony. The railway receipts for 1870 amounted to 204,114*l*. The export duties in 1869 amounted to 57,007*l*., leaving a net increase to the revenue of 1870 on these two items of 147,107*l*., which is nearly 2,000*l*. in excess of the gross increase on the year. The other items therefore of increase and decrease nearly balance each other. There is a decrease of 9,497*l*. under arrears of revenue of former years, which is satisfactory as showing the greater punctuality with which the instalments of rented revenue are now paid in. Under the head of Customs, there is an increase of 15,736*l*. in imports, attributable to the improvement in trade. The increase of 2,066*l*. in land sales is owing to the sale of large tracts of forest in the Central Province adapted for coffee cultivation. Under the head of land revenue, there is a large increase, amounting to 9,736*l*. in the item of paddy, caused chiefly by a productive harvest, and partly by the success of the irrigation scheme, which has led to increased cultivation. The increase of 3,456*l*. in tolls on roads, bridges, &c., affords evidence of increased traffic upon the thoroughfares throughout the Island. The increase of 3,840*l*. in the item of retail of salt under the head of

1,091,606
946,494
<hr/>
£145,112

CEYLON.

licences, is explained by the fact that the rent of the Jaffna District for 1869 was kept in the hands of the Government, and the receipts from this source were then brought to account under the head of sale of Government property. Under this latter head, consequently, there is a decrease in the receipts of 1870 from salt, as compared with those of 1869, of 4,856*l*. There are also large decreases under this head in two other items, viz. timber, 3,493*l*, and colonial stores, 10,520*l*.; the former, owing to the restriction in the issue of licences in the Eastern Provinces, and to the fact that a large amount had been realized in 1869 on account of confiscated timber in the Northern Province; the latter owing to large receipts in 1869 on account of iron bridges and other stores issued in that year. As remarked, however, by the Auditor-General, this item of revenue is really only a matter of account; the Government paying in the first instance for stores purchased by it, and recovering their value from time to time, as they are issued for use. There is an increase of 1,652*l*. on postage and postage stamps, which is evidence of increased correspondence; whilst the decrease of 6,777*l*., under the head of electric telegraph, is caused by the transfer of that Department to the Indian Government. In a word, the main items of decrease are either mere matters of account or are caused by the relinquishment of certain sources of revenue, whilst there is improvement under all the heads which indicate the revival of trade and the advancement of industrial enterprise.

4. The expenditure of 1870, as already stated, amounted to 1,026,870*l*.; that of 1869 was 881,373*l*., showing an increase of 145,497*l*.

5. This increase is attributable partly to larger expenditure upon public improvements, and partly to the changes, already referred to, which took place at the commencement of last year as regards the Sinking Fund and railway accounts. These last led to the following items being included for the first time in 1870 in the general expenditure of the Colony:—

	£
Contribution to Sinking Fund - - -	£16,000
Interest on Debentures - - -	42,000
	<hr/>
Railway establishments - - -	58,000
Other railway charges - - -	80,258
	<hr/>
Total - - -	£141,582

On the other hand, the export duties having been abolished, no amount was funded last year, and the accounts show therefore a decreased expenditure under the head of railway liabilities of 63,094*l*., which was the amount of export duties funded in 1869. This, deducted from 141,582*l*., leaves a net increased expenditure on account of the railway in 1870, as compared with 1869, of 78,488*l*.

6. The improvement in the state of the finances of the Colony enabled the Government also to undertake more extensive public works, and to procure a larger supply of stores from England. There is consequently an increase under the head of works and buildings of

10,507*l.*; on roads, streets, and bridges, 41,268*l.*; on colonial store, 8,344*l.* Under the head of Government vessels a sum of 10,000*l.* appears in the returns of 1870 on account of the purchase of the new colonial steamer, 'Serendib'; and under the head of education, exclusive of establishments, there is an increased expenditure of 2,701*l.*, caused by the extension of the grant-in-aid system. These items of increase together amount to 72,820*l.*, which added to 78,488*l.*, increased railway expenditure, gives a total of 151,308*l.*, but the whole increase is reduced by small savings under other heads to 145,497*l.*

7. In addition to the ordinary expenditure of the year, there was a further expenditure on public works of 21,474*l.* charged against the balances of former years and surplus funds.

Assets and Liabilities.

8. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1870, amounted to 450,127*l.* The liabilities amounted to 261,719*l.*, showing a balance in favour of the Government of 188,408*l.* In the statement of assets are included a sum of 50,000*l.* on account of arrears of revenue outstanding, believed to be recoverable, and 3,000*l.* on account of surcharges outstanding. Omitting these items from the statement of assets, and deducting from the statement of liabilities the item of 19,027*l.* on account of drafts outstanding, the actual balance of the Colony available for appropriation on the 31st December, 1870, amounted to 154,435*l.* Out of this a sum of 50,000*l.* will be applied to the extension of the railway from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya, under the authority of the Surplus Funds' Ordinance, No. 5, of 1871; and there still remains an available balance of upwards of 104,000*l.*, so that further provision to the extent of 54,000*l.* can be made during the next session for some of the most urgent works which were not provided for last year, without reducing the reserve below the 50,000*l.* fixed by Her Majesty's Government.

Imports and Exports.

9. The Customs returns show that there was an increase of 686,513*l.* in the value of goods imported, as compared with 1869, and an increase of 422,604*l.* on the exports, the value being—

IMPORTS.				
				£
1869	-	-	-	8,407,094
1870	-	-	-	4,093,607

EXPORTS.				
				£
1869	-	-	-	3,331,929
1870	-	-	-	8,754,533

10. Adding to these the specie imported and exported, the total

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value of the imports and exports of 1870, as compared with those of the preceding year, stands thus :—

IMPORTS.

				£
1869	-	-	-	4,635,023
1870	-	-	-	4,634,297

EXPORTS.

				£
1869	-	-	-	3,631,065
1870	-	-	-	3,803,730

11. The total value of goods (exclusive of specie) imported and retained in the Colony amounted to 3,724,274l.; viz. :—

Imports, exclusive of specie	-	-	-	£ 4,093,607
Deduct imports exported	-	-	-	369,333
Goods retained	-	-	-	<u>£3,724,274</u>

12. The total value of specie imported and retained in the Island during 1870, amounted to 491,493.

Specie imported	-	-	-	£ 540,690
„ exported	-	-	-	<u>49,197</u>
Specie retained	-	-	-	<u>£491,493</u>

13. The total value therefore of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island during 1870 amounted to 4,215,767l., as follows :—

Goods retained	-	-	-	£ 3,724,274
Specie „	-	-	-	<u>491,498</u>
Goods and specie retained	-	-	-	<u>£4,215,767</u>

14. The total value of Ceylon produce exported in 1870 amounted to 3,385,200l., viz. :—

Exports, exclusive of specie	-	-	-	£ 3,754,533
Deduct imports exported	-	-	-	<u>369,333</u>
Ceylon produce	-	-	-	<u>£3,385,200</u>

15. The total value of imports and exports of 1870 amounted to 8,438,027l., as follows :—

Imports	-	-	-	£ 4,634,297
Exports	-	-	-	<u>3,803,730</u>
				<u>£8,438,027</u>

16. The total value of goods and specie imported and retained in the Island, and of the Island produce exported in 1870, was 7,600,967*l.*, viz. :—

Goods and specie imported and retained	-	-	-	-	£	4,215,767
Ceylon produce exported	-	-	-	-	-	3,385,200
						<u>£7,600,967</u>

17. The apparent excess in the value of the imports over that of the Island produce exported, as I pointed out last year, is caused by the system of valuation adopted by the Customs Department; the imports and exports being both taken at their value in the market here, the latter representing little more than the cost of production. If the exports were valued at their selling price in the markets to which they are consigned, the excess would no doubt appear on the other side. The returns as they stand would lead to the conclusion, which is obviously incorrect, that for a long series of years the value of the goods imported has been in excess of the value of the exports, and that there has been in addition a large annual importation of specie.

18. I subjoin the following explanatory Report, furnished by the Principal Collector of Customs, in submitting the Customs returns for 1870.

“The foregoing returns show that the value of the imports from all countries was nearly the same for 1870 as for the year 1869, but exceeded that for 1868 by about 231,000*l.* From the details, however, it will be seen that there was some fluctuation in the value from the different countries; for example, in 1870 the imports from the United Kingdom exceeded by 355,000*l.* the value of those in 1869, and by 267,000*l.* those for 1868; from British India there was a falling off in value to the amount of 122,000*l.* in 1870, compared with 1869, while compared with 1868, there was an increase of about 104,000*l.*; from Hong Kong the imports of 1870 were about double the value of those for 1869 and 1868; from Australia the imports of 1870 were valued at 115,000*l.* less than in 1869, and 14,000*l.* less than in 1868; from Suez the values of 1870 were about 123,000*l.* below those of the two preceding years. From foreign countries the value of the imports in each of the three years is nearly the same, except from the United States of America, which is less in 1870 than in both the preceding years, owing probably to the ice famine.

“The total value of the exports for 1870 is about 172,000*l.* in excess of that for 1869, and 17,000*l.* in excess of that for 1868. As with the imports, the details to each country show some fluctuation. To the United Kingdom there is an increase of about 254,000*l.* in 1870 over 1869, and about 113,000*l.* over 1868; to Australia there is a small increase in 1870 over both the preceding years. To France the increase, under the circumstances of the year, is noteworthy; the value of the exports has increased from 24,000*l.* in 1868, and 75,000*l.* in 1869, to 81,000*l.* in 1870; to French India the increase has been from 13,000*l.* and 12,000*l.* in 1868 and 1869 respectively, to 24,000*l.* in 1870.

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"To the United States there is a falling off in 1870 of 14,000*l.* as compared with 1869, and an increase of 11,000 over 1868. To the Mauritius there is an increase in 1870 of about 9,000*l.* compared with 1869, and a falling off of 56,000*l.* compared with 1868.

"As regards specie there was a marked falling off both in its import and export in 1870, compared with the two previous years. The import fell from a million in 1868, and a million and a quarter in 1869, to half a million in 1870; and the export fell from about 300,000*l.* in each of the years 1868 and 1869, to less than 50,000*l.* in 1870. It would appear that 686,538*l.*, 928,793*l.*, and 491,493*l.* was retained in the Colony during each of the three years respectively.

"In 1870 the total trade of Ceylon (imports and exports) exceeded that for 1869 by 171,000*l.*, and that for 1868 by 248,000*l.*

"The shipping accounts show an increase in 1870 both in ships and tonnage over the two preceding years, inwards and outwards.

"No special cause can be assigned for these differences beyond the natural fluctuation of trade. The returns show on the whole a progressive increase in the trade of the Colony."

19. I append to this Despatch a return of exports of coffee, cinnamon, cocoanut-oil and coir for the last ten years; and a return of the total value of imports and exports (including specie and bullion) in the years 1868, 1869, and 1870.

Enclosure 1.Enclosure 2.

Public Works.

20. The total expenditure on public works during the past year amounted to 277,489*l.*, viz:—

Government money - - - - -	£ 211,219
Road Ordinance labour and private contribution - - - - -	31,117
Establishments - - - - -	35,153
	<hr/>
	£277,489

21. In the year 1869, the expenditure was 269,853*l.*, showing an increase of 7,636*l.* in 1870. The expenditure on public works borne on the votes of 1870, as has been shown, was over 50,000*l.* in excess of the expenditure of 1869 from the same source. But in the year 1869 there was a much larger expenditure from unexpended balances and surplus funds, thus reducing the increase in 1870 on the whole transactions of the year to the amount here stated.

22. The expenditure on new roads amounted to 47,614*l.* of which 22,700*l.* was expended on the new road from Badulla to Batticaloa. Considerable progress has been made on this road. About 67 miles have been completed to the end of 1870, and there yet remain about 34 miles to be completed, the total length of the road from Badulla to Eraur being 101 miles. A sum of 6,588*l.* was expended on the road from Akuressa to Morowaka, in the Southern Province. The expenditure in previous years on this road amounted to 10,259*l.*; and a further sum of 3,334*l.* was expended last year on the extension of this road beyond Morowaka. In the Central Province four miles

of the Dik Oya road were completed at a cost of 3,787*l.* The total cost of this road, which is 14 miles in length, is 26,870*l.* A sum of 2,298*l.* was expended on the extension of the Dimbula road, and 1,368*l.* on the Deltota road.

The western terminus of the Urugodawatté road in the Western Province was completed early in the year on an expenditure of 2,001*l.*

23. On the upkeep of roads and canals the expenditure amounted to 118,293*l.*, including 26,778*l.* of Ordinance labour and private contributions.

24. A sum of 8,300*l.* was expended on the construction of new bridges. The following were in progress last year :—

	£
Deduru Oya, on the road from Kurunégala to Puttalam— expenditure since commencement - - - -	10,034
Matara Bridge, in Southern Province - - - -	8,816
Bentota Bridge " " (completed) - - - -	5,925
Subsidiary Bridge at Bentota - - - -	2,958
Harogama Oya, on the Maturatta road, in the Central Province (completed) - - - -	849
Gal Oya, in the new Badulla and Batticaloa road - -	1,865

25. The repair of bridges involved an outlay of 6,257*l.*

26. The expenditure on new buildings was 19,573*l.* The following were some of the buildings in progress in 1870 :—

WESTERN PROVINCE.

	£
Additions and improvements of the Welikadé Gaol—ex- penditure in 1870 - - - -	4,019
Hospital at Negombo - - - -	1,283

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE.

Hospital at Kurunégala - - - -	1,353
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SOUTHERN PROVINCE.

Extension of Galle Gaol - - - -	2,026
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EASTERN PROVINCE.

Offices for the Public Works Department, Batticaloa -	285
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NORTHERN PROVINCE.

Extension of Jaffna Gaol (completed) - - - -	1,077
Hospital and Medical Officers' Quarters at Mullaïtiu and Vavonia Velankulum - - - -	1,122
Coolie sheds with Hospitals on the Mannár and Mata- kachcha road - - - -	2,410

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Hospital at Matale (completed) - - - -	2,204
Powder Magazine at Kandy (completed) - - - -	296
Additions to Kandy Gaol - - - -	2,301
Gaoler's residence, Kandy (completed) - - - -	529

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27. The repairs of buildings cost 13,712*l.*; and a sum of 12,442*l.* was expended on drains, ferry-boats, general service, and miscellaneous services, which include expenses of working the factory, cost of purchase of tools and materials, keep of Government cattle and elephants, recruiting of pioneers, &c.

Irrigation.

28. The total expenditure on irrigation works during the year was 16,144*l.* In the Western Province the principal work executed was the restoration of the Kinchugané Channel in the Saparagamuwa District, which has been completed at a cost of 577*l.* It will benefit about 112 acres, which for want of the means of irrigation have not been cultivated for years.

29. In the North Western Province the following works were undertaken in 1870 :—The Deduru Oya works, consisting of a channel to connect the river with three large tanks within a few miles of Chilaw. The head sluice for the channel was completed in 1870 at a cost of 425*l.* The channel requires to be cleared, widened, and deepened. The estimated cost of the work is 1,652*l.*, of which 1,214*l.* were expended in 1870. It will benefit about 1,018 acres. The Director of Public Works reports that on a recent visit paid by him to this place he found that good crops had just been gathered from fields which had not previously been cultivated for ten years in consequence of the uncertainty of water. The restoration of the Tiripitiyawewa, at Madampé, about six miles on the Colombo side of Chilaw, was commenced in 1870, and a sum of 400*l.* expended on it. The estimated cost of the work is 3,000*l.* It will irrigate about 815 acres of land. The construction of a masonry dam at Kudulgalpitiya, across the Kospotu Oya, about eight miles from Kurunégala, with head sluices and a new irrigation channel, has also been commenced, and a sum of 300*l.* expended on it. The probable cost of the work is 1,400*l.*, and it will aid in irrigating between 500 and 600 acres of land on both banks of the river.

30. The following were the works in the Southern Province. Denegamé and Weangwewa tanks near Hakmené in the Má tara District, calculated to irrigate about 2,000 acres of land. The sluices and two of the bunds at Denegamé, and a considerable portion of the large bund were completed in 1870 on an expenditure of 4,247*l.*; but a sudden heavy fall of rain rapidly filled the tank and breached the newly-constructed bund before it had become properly consolidated. The repair of this damage will cost a further sum of 1,779*l.* The Kenadura tank, near Má tara, was completed in the early part of the year, but the main arterial channel leading from it has not yet been finished. The expenditure to the end of 1870 was 5,582*l.* The total cost of the work will be 6,072*l.* It will irrigate about 2,800 acres of land.

31. A sum of 6,811*l.* was expended on irrigation works in the Eastern Province. The reconstruction of the Rugam tank, which was commenced in 1868, was completed in 1870, at a cost of 8,699*l.* This is one of the largest tanks in the Island, and it is capable of irrigating upwards of 7,000 acres of land. The Peria Kulum tank

is situated near Nidavely, about eight miles north of Trincomalee. Since the completion of the repairs to this tank in 1869, the people requested that channels might be cut from it to the tract of fields watered by the tank. This work was executed last year at a cost of 157*l*. The tank will irrigate about 867 acres of land. The construction of a channel from the Allai Kulum tank to an extensive tract of land at Mutur, in the Trincomalee District, was commenced in 1870, and an expenditure of 1,243*l*. incurred on it. The total cost of this channel will be 1,536*l*. The tank will irrigate about 4,000 acres of land. The construction of a dam over the Sangapady Aar, intended to regulate the supply of water to the fields irrigated by Irrakaman and Amparai tanks, was also commenced in 1870. A sum of 380*l*. was expended on it. The estimated cost of the work is 4,100*l*. It will aid in irrigating 14,000 acres of land. Another work of importance undertaken in the Eastern Province was the restoration of the Devilane tank, which is situated a few miles from Friar's Hood Mountain, in the Batticaloa District. The estimated cost of this work is 3,489*l*., of which 525*l*. were expended in 1870. It will benefit about 3,000 acres of land.

32. In the Central Province the repairs of the Kuduwewe tank, in the vicinity of Alut Nuwara, in Bentenne, were completed at a cost of 674*l*. The lands to be benefited by this tank include about 222 acres at present under cultivation, and about 150 acres of Crown jungle. The repairs to the Horaborawewa tank, situated about four miles from Alut Nuwara, were also completed in 1870. The total cost of the work was 669*l*. It irrigates about 389 acres of land.

Government Houses at Colombo, Galle, and Kandy.

33. I enclose Reports from the Director of Public Works* on the state of these buildings. The Queen's House at Colombo and the Pavilion at Kandy have been much improved by the alterations recently made to them. The main buildings are in good order; but the out-offices require some repairs. The Colonial Storekeeper reports that the public furniture in the several Queen's Houses has been maintained in good order and suitable condition.

* Not printed.

Surveying Department.

34. The Surveyor-General reports that during the year 1870 3,476 lots, containing in extent 22,897 acres, were disposed of for 50,175*l*., or at an average rate per acre of 2*l*. 3*s*. 9½*d*., exclusive of survey fees, which amounted to 4,859*l*.; that 2,486 lots, in extent 6,663 acres, were settled on certificates, &c., the survey fees for which realized 1,848*l*.; that the fees received for temple land surveys amounted to 165*l*., and that 177*l*. were received for tracings, &c.

35. The total number of lots alienated from the Crown was 5,962, comprising an extent of 29,560 acres, and the total sum realized by land sales and fees amounted to 57,225*l*., the total amount of receipts for the previous year being 57,964*l*.

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36. The following are the results of the sales in the different provinces :—

Provinces.	No. of Lots.	Extent.	Purchase Amount.	Average rate per Acre.
		acres.	£	£ s. d.
Western - - - -	2,034	6,533	12,239	1 17 5½
Central - - - -	352	10,872	29,053	2 13 5½
Southern - - - -	511	1,451	3,112	2 2 10½
Eastern - - - -	324	2,283	3,168	1 7 8½
North-Western - - -	230	1,659	2,394	1 8 10½
Northern - - - -	25	96	208	2 2 10½

37. The expenses of the Department amounted to 25,145*l.*, of which 2,799*l.* were expended on railway extension surveys, meteorological observations, town and temple land surveys, surveys for irrigation purposes, &c., leaving a balance of 22,345*l.* as the expenditure on the ordinary work of the Department.

Railway.

38. The gross receipts of the year amounted to 204,114*l.*, and the working expenses to 73,547*l.*, leaving a profit of 130,567*l.* In 1869 the receipts amounted to 180,965*l.*, and the working expenses to 72,500*l.*, so that whilst the increase in the receipts in 1870 amounted to 23,149*l.*, the increase in the expenditure was only 1,047*l.*

39. The number of passengers carried during the year was 202,620, against 181,720 in 1869; and the tonnage of goods was 156,205, as compared with 134,369 in the previous year.

40. The working of the railway has been entirely satisfactory; and the line has been maintained in good order by the contractor. The iron rails originally laid on the incline have been replaced by steel rails, with perfectly satisfactory results; the wear and tear being now considerably less than formerly.

41. There were a few interruptions to the traffic during the year, caused by the line being washed away near the twenty-seventh mile, from the 3rd to the 5th May, and from the 10th to the 15th November, and by landslips, &c., on the incline from the 18th to the 20th October, and on the 16th November.

42. The railway yielded last year to general revenue a net sum of no less than 62,532*l.*, after paying all expenses, and a contribution of 58,000*l.* to the Sinking Fund as follows :—

Receipts - - - - -	£ 204,114
Contribution to Sinking Fund - - - - -	£58,000
Working expenses, additional accommodation, loss on remittances to England, and other charges- - - - -	83,582
	<u>141,582</u>
	<u>£62,532</u>

*Legislation.*CEYLON.

42. The following are the Ordinances enacted in the Session of 1870:—

No. 6 of 1870, "To amend the Ordinance No. 9 of 1869," provides for the payment half-yearly of the amount authorized by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1869 to be paid from the general revenue to meet the interest and principal of the railway debt to the Crown Agents instead of to the trustees of the Sinking Fund; the former to retain in their hands sufficient to meet the half-year's interest on outstanding debentures, and to pay the balance to the trustees.

No. 7 extends the provisions of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1848, relating to palanquin and other carriages let to hire, to the limits of the municipalities in Colombo, Kandy, and Galle, which include a larger area than was comprised within the gravets of those towns to which the provisions of the Ordinance were before limited.

No. 8 extends for another year, till the end of 1871, the provisions of the Ordinance No. 12 of 1869, for regulating the use of traction-engines in Ceylon.

No. 9, amending the Ordinance No. 3 of 1870, supplies an omission in the latter Ordinance by authorizing the addition to the schedule of places in which the Ordinance is to come into operation, of the Sinhalese villages in the district of Mánnar, in the Northern Province, which were inadvertently omitted from it.

No. 10 makes provision for the supplementary contingent charges for the year 1870.

No. 1 of 1871 provides for the issue of warrants for goods warehoused in the Queen's and bonded warehouses, and authorizes their transfer by endorsement. It also makes a few minor amendments in the Customs Ordinance.

No. 2 establishes tolls on certain roads recently completed.

No. 3 establishes the standard for the measurement to be used in the sale of gas to be supplied to municipal towns.

No. 4 authorizes a sum of 150,000*l.* being raised on debentures for the extension of the railway from Peradeniya to Nawalapitiya, and No. 5 provides for the appropriation of a sum of 50,000*l.* for the same purpose from the surplus revenues of past years.

No. 6 makes provision for the contingent services of the year 1871.

No. 7, "To amend the law of property and to relieve trustees," was introduced to remove certain practical difficulties experienced by conveyancers and others in dealing with trustees and trust estates, and it provides means to enable executors to free themselves from responsibility after due notice, and to apply to the Supreme Court for directions in cases of difficulty.

No. 8, "To amend in certain respects the law of mortgage and "hypothec," has two objects in view:—First, to abolish general mortgages; and secondly, to render mortgages of movable property invalid, unless accompanied by actual delivery, or effected by a writing duly registered.

No. 9 makes certain amendments which were found to be necessary in the Tolls Ordinance, No. 14 of 1867.

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Population.

44. The total population of all classes of inhabitants for 1870, including the military, is stated in the returns to be 2,128,884, viz. :—

Western Province -	-	-	664,270
North-Western Province -	-	-	214,699
Southern Province -	-	-	354,339
Eastern „	-	-	97,081
Northern „	-	-	426,597
Central „	-	-	371,898
			<hr/>
			2,128,884

45. These figures are taken from the Reports furnished by the several Government Agents, who are dependent for the information upon the headmen of their respective Provinces; but, as has before been remarked, they cannot be relied upon. Since the compilation of these returns a census of the population of this Island has been taken under the provisions of the Ordinance No. 5 of 1868; and I enclose a copy of an interesting letter from the Registrar-General, giving the general results of the census. The total population of the whole Island, according to the census, is 2,405,287; showing an increase of about 300,000 over former estimates, and of 277,603 as compared with the returns in the Blue Book for 1870. The increase appears in all the Provinces, excepting the Northern, in which there is a decrease of 86,428.

Enclosure 3.

46. The following is the population of the several Provinces, according to the census :—

Western Province -	-	-	776,930
North-Western Province -	-	-	276,033
Southern Province -	-	-	399,452
Eastern „	-	-	118,077
Northern „	-	-	340,169
Central „	-	-	494,626
			<hr/>
			2,405,287

Public Health.

47. The principal civil medical officer reports there has been no epidemic of a serious nature during the year 1870, and that the public health has been good.

48. 558 cases of cholera were reported during the year, of which 319 proved fatal, being at the rate of 57.16 per cent. of attack. The disease first made its appearance in a village near Galle, in the Southern Province, in May, 1870, and it extended itself over the Island without showing any tendency to spread epidemically.

49. In my Despatch, No. 210, of the 16th September last, forwarding the Blue Book for 1869, I stated that only a single case of small-pox remained in Galle at the close of that year. This case

recovered, and the disease disappeared for a short period from the Island. It again made its appearance in April in Colombo, and afterwards spread to other parts of the Island, assuming an epidemic character in Colombo towards the close of the year. The total number of cases reported in the Island was 367, of which 75 died.

50. The hospital returns submitted by the principal civil medical officer show an increase of 498 in the number of indoor patients over those of 1869; the numbers admitted being 7,890 in 1869, and 8,388 in 1870. The number of deaths was 941 in 1870 against 1,077 in 1869; the rate of mortality being 11·21 in the former year, and 13·65 in the latter.

Education.

51. The number of Government schools in operation at the close of the year 1870 was 156; the number of pupils on the list was 8,726; and the average daily attendance during the year was 6,825, showing a net increase during the year of 36 schools and 1,570 pupils, with an increase of 1,044 in the average daily attendance.

52. The expenditure on account of education in 1870 amounted to 20,554*l.*, showing an increase of 4,087*l.* as compared with that of 1869, which was 16,467*l.*

53. The receipts in 1870 under the head of fees, &c., amounted to 2,628*l.*, being an increase of 159*l.* as compared with the sum received in 1869.

54. Grants in aid under the new scheme to the amount of 3,435*l.* were given to 223 missionary and private schools, after an examination of the pupils. The number of pupils examined was 7,221, representing an average daily attendance of nearly 10,000. Of the number examined 4,925 were in vernacular schools, 908 in Anglo-vernacular schools, and 1,388 in English teaching schools.

55. The returns from the different missionary bodies show an increase of 33 in the number of schools supported by them, and of 4,850 in the number of pupils attending them. The following is an abstract of these schools:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel - - -	121	5,362
Church Missionary Society - - - - -	95	4,195
Wesleyan " " - - - - -	104	4,724
Presbyterians " " - - - - -	1	23
Baptist Missionary Society - - - - -	19	537
American " " - - - - -	67	3,006
Roman Catholic " " - - - - -	123	7,246
	530	25,093

56. The numbers in 1869 were 497 schools and 20,243 pupils.

57. The number of private schools in 1870 was 279, with an attendance of 6,838, showing a decrease as compared with 1869 of six schools, and an increase of 396 in the number of pupils.

CEYLON.

*General Observations.*Enclosure 4.

58. I annex to this Despatch a Table giving a statistical view of the progress of Ceylon for the years 1821 to 1870 inclusive. This return is interesting and instructive, as it shows that the liberal policy which has been pursued here for many years past is now bearing fruit in the rapid and solid improvement of the Colony. Not only has the whole industrial enterprise of the Island been lately relieved of the burden of the export duties, but vast sums have been expended for years past on works calculated to facilitate and cheapen the means of communication and to increase the local production of food. The result is now apparent in the extension of agriculture and trade, and the improvement of the public revenue.

59. As illustrating this I may point to the statistical returns for the last three years, as compared with those for a corresponding period prior to 31st December, 1860, which show the following results. The imports and exports have increased in average annual value from 5,958,248*l.* in the years 1858-59-60, to 8,298,005*l.* in the years 1868-69-70, being an increase of nearly 40 per cent. The annual average tonnage of shipping entered and cleared from the several ports of the Island has increased in like manner from 829,263 tons in the years 1858-59-60, to 1,294,795 tons in the years 1868-69-70, being an increase of over 56 per cent. The estimated number of acres in cultivation has increased from 927,581 acres in 1860 to 1,526,583 acres in 1870, being an increase of 64 per cent. The staple exports of the Island consist of coffee, cinnamon, arecanuts, tobacco, plumbago, and the produce of the cocoanut palm, comprising oil, arrack, fibre, rope, and other manufactured articles. A comparison of the average export of these articles for the years 1858-59-60 with that for 1868-69-70 shows the following results. Coffee has increased from 584,806 cwt. to 993,478 cwt., being an increase of nearly 70 per cent. The annual value of the produce of the cocoanut exported has increased from 194,235*l.* to 232,747*l.*, being an increase of about 20 per cent. The export of cinnamon has increased from 768,420 lbs. to 2,311,059 lbs., being an increase of 300 per cent. The export of arecanuts has increased from 70,571 cwt. to 79,359 cwt., being an increase of 11 per cent. Tobacco has increased from 20,224 cwt. to 34,921 cwt., being an increase of 72 per cent., and the export of plumbago has increased from 37,534 cwt. to 150,824 cwt., being an increase of 400 per cent. The improvement in the revenue has been equally marked. In 1860 it amounted to 767,100*l.*, which was in excess of the revenue of any previous year. Since then no new taxes have been imposed, and about 100,000*l.* a year of the revenue then existing has been relinquished by the abolition of the export duties and the transfer to the municipalities of Colombo, Kandy, and Galle of taxes amounting to about 40,000*l.* a year. Notwithstanding the abandonment of these items, the revenue of 1870 amounted to 1,091,606*l.*, being an increase as compared with that of 1860 of over 42 per cent. Of this increase about one-third is due to the excess of the railway receipts over the items of revenue relinquished, and the remainder is attributable to the general improve-

CEYLON.
—

ment of all the principal sources of revenue. The Colony has now, I consider, a well-secured revenue of about 1,100,000*l.* a year. It defrays the whole of its own civil and military expenditure, which amounts, including the upkeep of public works and the contribution to the Railway Sinking Fund, to nearly 980,000*l.*, leaving a net surplus of about 120,000*l.* a year available for new roads, bridges, and canals; for railway extension, for irrigation works, for harbour improvements, for the establishment of village schools throughout the Island, and for other similar measures necessary to develop still further the vast natural resources of the country, and to advance the social and material condition of the people.

60. It is very gratifying to me, at the close of my administration of this Government, to be enabled thus to lay before your Lordship proofs of the sound and flourishing condition of the finances, and of the growing prosperity of every branch of industry. The people are loyal, thriving, and contented. The peasantry especially are making rapid progress in wealth and comfort, and appear to appreciate very generally the substantial advantages which they derive from living under British rule.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

CEYLON.
Enclosure 1
in No. 1.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.
DECENNIAL RETURN OF EXPORTS OF COFFEE, CINNAMON, COCONUT-OIL, and CORN, the PRODUCE of the COLONY.

Year.	Coffee.			Cinnamon.			Coconut-oil.			Cobr.			Total Amount of Customs Revenue from the foregoing Exports.
	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty.	
1861	cwt. 648,026	£ 1,656,733	£ 32,404	£ 845,218	£ 42,261	£ 845	gals. 1,040,428	£ 104,043	£ 2,613	cwt. 43,168	£ 31,883	£ 540	£ 36,400
1862	605,178	1,445,384	30,259	875,475	43,774	876	1,429,531	142,953	3,531	46,595	37,643	533	35,309
1863	828,589	2,126,222	41,429	734,038	36,702	734	1,878,585	187,838	4,718	51,735	39,103	647	47,523
1864	671,164	1,744,793	33,559	776,675	38,833	775	2,249,402	224,948	5,649	36,313	27,396	454	40,437
1865	927,440	2,343,532	46,373	850,973	42,549	852	1,176,784	120,678	2,955	41,373	31,637	516	50,696
1866	897,624	2,266,380	44,882	890,484	44,524	890	1,042,853	104,400	2,619	46,687	33,085	594	48,985
1867	943,592	2,430,536	47,180	1,017,750	50,889	1,018	1,345,485	134,548	3,379	49,675	34,446	631	52,198
1868	1,007,338	2,563,999	50,367	2,056,509	102,825	2,057	1,423,853	142,385	3,576	68,804	46,607	861	56,861
1869	919,065	2,331,980	45,954	2,684,367	134,269	2,685	1,292,065	129,206	3,244	64,998	43,013	813	52,635
1870	1,054,029	2,753,004	Free	2,191,274	109,558	Free	1,688,199	168,819	Free	61,666	43,430	Free	Free
Total	8,502,043	21,742,963	372,405	12,922,763	646,182	10,732	14,567,185	1,459,838	32,344	511,069	368,188	5,638	431,109

(Signed) T. B. STEPHEN,
Principal Collector.

Customs, Colombo, May 26, 1871.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

TOTAL VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including SPECIE and BULLION) from each Country in each of the Years 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1871.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	1868.	1869.	1870.	1868.	1869.	1871.
United Kingdom	£ 1,264,470 2 2	£ 1,175,757 16 11	£ 1,531,491 9 5	£ 2,798,312 10 10	£ 2,632,781 1 7	£ 2,907,145 17 6
British Possessions in India	2,454,189 8 4	2,681,779 18 2	2,559,087 11 3	788,442 10 9	762,907 7 10	662,333 3 11
Mauritius	6,941 1 0	7,308 15 11	38 0 0	70,240 13 10	4,186 18 1	18,865 15 2
Aden	489 16 0	61 3 6	28 0 0	1,511 2 4	10,075 16 9	—
Hong Kong	14,140 14 6	13,501 0 1	28,841 7 9	1,028 19 0	908 13 11	6,853 9 3
Australia	266,576 0 0	366,710 16 4	251,613 12 10	39,551 3 9	44,413 5 10	49,232 18 11
Cape of Good Hope	1,281 4 9	11 4 10	—	—	—	191 19 0
France	6,574 7 6	233 10 3	726 16 8	24,501 0 8	75,467 15 7	81,263 4 10
Suez	181,872 19 10	179,161 14 2	56,434 4 8	6,155 19 9	8,674 4 2	2,603 12 6
French Possessions in India	172,959 18 7	164,948 5 1	168,148 5 1	13,232 4 9	12,350 17 2	24,214 12 1
Maldiv Islands	26,914 1 2	30,103 12 6	33,336 4 1	6,578 13 5	4,773 16 10	5,709 3 6
United States of America	6,817 12 8	13,475 2 7	4,351 14 4	37,431 6 2	62,928 4 11	48,824 16 6
Dutch Possessions in India	—	—	—	910 0 0	554 6 10	2,092 2 8
China	—	—	—	3,905 12 0	1,047 14 9	—
Muscat	—	1,970 7 3	—	—	—	—
Total	£ 4,403,177 6 6	4,635,023 7 7	4,634,237 6 1	3,788,721 17 3	3,631,065 4 3	3,803,730 15 10

Customs, Colombo, May 26, 1871.

(Signed) T. B. STEPHEN,
Principal Collector.

CERTIFICATE.
Enclosure 2
in No. 1.

CEYLON.

Enclosure 3
in No. 1.

Enclosure 3 in No. 1.

EXTRACT from the REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT,
dated REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICE, COLOMBO, JULY 26, 1871.

Herewith I have the honour to lay before his Excellency the Governor the general totals of population, as shown by the Census taken on the 26-7th March last.

The total for the whole Island of 2,405,287 would have doubtless been received by the public as most satisfactory, showing as it does an increase of about 300,000 over all former estimates. Unfortunately, however, I had been led (by the great excess over previous calculations of the results of the Census in five of the Provinces) to allow my hopes that we should approach the 3,000,000 to become generally known, and thereby have given grounds for unnecessary disappointment.

On receipt of the Northern Province Schedules (which had been for weeks detained by stormy weather and contrary winds), I was greatly disappointed at finding that, there alone, instead of an increase, a decrease on former estimates of 86,149 was the result.

I at once wrote to the Government Agent inviting his attention to this startling falling off in the numbers of the population, and am awaiting his reply before making further comment.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state that, in all other respects, the whole proceedings connected with the Census have been very successful.

I am quite satisfied that the returns are very accurate; of course mistakes and omissions have been made, but, in comparison with the magnitude of the whole work, they are too trifling to be noticed.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. . &c.

Enclosure 4 in No. 1.

STATISTICAL VIEW of the PROGRESS of Ceylon, from the Year 1861 to 1870, inclusive.

Year.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Military.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Estimated Number of Acres under Cultivation.	Land Sales.		Revenue.	Expenditure.
							Schools.	Number of Scholars.		Extent.	Amount realized, including fees.		
1861	24,700	1,919,487	3,280	46,751	18,310	87,480	1,111	27,914	810,153	28,829	44,166	751,997	635,280
1862		2,079,881	3,138	48,602	19,518	83,652	1,237	32,408	1,567,974	23,800	45,300	759,135	626,654
1863		2,942,098	2,945	48,589	23,581	90,024	920	31,528	1,575,937	32,567	72,811	952,790	798,194
1864		2,051,109	2,981	45,713	18,542	89,987	907	29,065	1,580,078	84,122	76,567	867,728	843,292
1865		2,049,728	2,788	45,056	16,885	80,528	798	26,703	1,651,963	41,150	68,276	978,492	838,193
1866		2,088,027	2,235	48,223	18,921	89,125	698	23,147	1,897,008	45,546	72,021	962,873	917,669
1867		2,093,777	2,410	42,788	24,433	44,224	874	33,379	1,550,664	44,019	45,257	969,986	927,932
1868		2,081,395	2,467	55,058	14,846	56,138	716	28,807	1,832,710	24,492	38,514	925,266	974,950
1869		2,105,288	2,408	54,281	17,205	46,801	915	35,617	1,424,069	33,823	57,964	946,495	881,378
1870		2,128,894	2,116	63,111	17,150	40,230	978	41,490	1,526,588	29,560	57,296	1,031,606	1,026,871

Total Tonnage of Shipping Entered and Cleared.												
Year.	From and to United Kingdom.	From and to other Countries.	Total.	British belonging to		Foreign.	Imports.			Exports.		
				United Kingdom.	The Colonies.		From the United Kingdom.	From other Countries.	Total.	To the United Kingdom.	To other Countries.	Total.
1861	73,866	763,355	837,221	364,640	394,425	78,156	801,491	2,862,263	3,663,750	1,724,740	981,467	2,706,207
1862	92,911	796,081	888,992	462,295	361,566	65,131	886,319	3,406,820	4,243,189	1,703,574	790,546	2,494,120
1863	125,872	942,642	1,068,514	517,158	409,089	148,117	1,011,995	4,421,811	5,433,806	2,407,578	1,179,656	3,587,234
1864	109,889	960,556	1,070,395	513,153	427,926	129,316	1,551,587	3,875,377	5,526,964	2,015,326	1,096,942	3,112,268
1865	122,842	1,027,998	1,150,840	605,575	419,041	126,224	904,255	4,117,994	5,022,179	2,420,056	1,145,101	3,565,157
1866	115,446	1,066,869	1,182,385	578,576	454,852	149,897	1,390,686	3,570,375	4,961,061	2,885,126	1,201,827	3,586,453
1867	126,754	1,070,011	1,196,765	579,090	476,606	141,069	1,350,312	3,154,027	4,504,389	2,556,188	974,086	3,580,224
1868	163,999	1,082,615	1,246,614	656,812	414,544	175,258	1,264,470	3,138,707	4,403,177	2,793,813	993,409	3,786,722
1869	112,971	1,100,855	1,213,826	697,987	869,204	146,635	1,175,758	3,459,265	4,635,023	2,652,781	978,284	3,631,065
1870	154,963	1,268,982	1,423,945	779,777	445,565	198,603	1,531,491	3,102,806	4,634,297	2,907,146	896,585	3,803,731

<p>• This is exclusive of an expenditure of £19,759, charged against the Surplus Revenue of 1906-7 year.</p> <p>• Ditto £2,484, ditto.</p> <p>• This is exclusive of an expenditure of £23,167, charged on Balances.</p>	<p>• Ditto £120, ditto.</p> <p>• Ditto £250,000, ditto.</p> <p>• This is exclusive of an expenditure of £23,167, charged on Balances.</p>	<p>• This is exclusive of an expenditure of £10,223, charged on Balances.</p> <p>• Ditto £98,383, charged against Surplus Funds and against Balances.</p> <p>• Ditto £79,021, ditto ditto.</p> <p>• Ditto £21,416, ditto ditto.</p>	<p>• Ditto £19,431, ditto ditto.</p> <p>• Ditto £21,416, ditto ditto.</p> <p>• This is exclusive of an expenditure of £23,167, charged on Balances.</p>
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NOTE.—The figures under the heads Population, Births, Marriages, Deaths, Schools, Cultivation, are only approximate.

HONG KONG.

Hong Kong.

No. 2.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor WHITEFIELD to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 79.)

MY LORD, Government House, Hong Kong, June 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship, the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1870.

I also enclose with it a copy of the Report making references thereto, which has been made to me by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley, (Signed) H. W. WHITEFIELD,
&c. &c. &c. Major-Gen. and Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure
No. 1.Enclosure
No. 2.
June 6, 1871.

(No. 278.)

SIR,

Colonial Secretary's Office, June 6, 1871.

I have the honour to submit the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, and to draw your Excellency's attention to the following remarks thereon.

Revenue.

2. The receipts under the head of revenue were, it will be perceived, in close approximation to those of the preceding year, having amounted in the whole to 190,678*l.* 12*s.* 1½*d.*, as against 192,464*l.* 17*s.* 2½*d.* in 1869.

Under some heads, as for instance the Mint, and reimbursements, the decrease is considerable; but the account is balanced by increased receipts for stamps and police and lighting rates, which is all the more satisfactory, considering that the sale of the Mint machinery, and an allowance from the Special Fund for the construction and maintenance of the 'Victoria' and 'Blanche' steam-vessels gave extraordinary additions to the receipts of 1869.

Expenditure.

8. In respect to the expenditure of 1870, there was a decrease of 8,713*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* as compared with that of 1869, the charges of the former year having amounted to 183,595*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.*, whilst those of the latter reached 192,309*l.* 1*s.* 7½*d.*

But, for the purchase of Mr. Duddell's lots, which involved an outlay of 8,600*l.*, the contrast would have been still more favourable to 1870. At the same time, however, the reception of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and the purchase of fire-engines in 1869, gave exceptional increase to the expenditure of that year,

Public Works.

Hong Kong.

4. The public works and roads of the Colony have involved an outlay of no less a sum than 38,224*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; but it is satisfactory to know that the work which has absorbed nearly one half of this sum, viz. the Pok-fo-lum reservoir, is verging on completion, and bids fair to repay the community most amply for the heavy outlay which has been incurred. The other undertakings which have drawn prominently on the resources of the Colony are the Court House, telegraphic communication around the Island, accommodation for the gaol staff, and repair of the sea-wall.

Population.

5. The day fixed upon for taking the Census of the British and foreign community, viz. the 2nd of April, 1871, not being a convenient period for collecting statistics of the Chinese population, the Census regarding them was taken, with the assent of the Secretary of State, in October, 1870. The returns are not, however, to be altogether relied upon, as so prone are the Chinese, like other Asiatics, to suspect the authorities to have some covert design, that they fail in many cases to comply with the requirements of the law. Such as they are, the returns show an increase since 1869, in the British and foreign population, of 447, and in the Chinese of 1,437; the respective numbers, inclusive of the military and naval establishments, being as follows:—

Europeans and Americans	-	-	-	-	5,981
Indians and others of mixed blood	-	-	-	-	2,823
Chinese	-	-	-	-	115,444
Total	-	-	-	-	<u>124,198</u>

Emigration.

6. Emigration under contract to foreign countries having been prohibited by Her Majesty's Government, and considerable opposition having been given in the United States to the introduction of Chinese labourers, the numbers leaving this port have been reduced by 5,298 as compared with the preceding year.

The emigration of Chinese through Hong Kong has, however, been considerable, viz:—

To the United States	-	-	-	-	11,024
To the Australian colonies	-	-	-	-	775
To Callao	-	-	-	-	381
To Bangkok	-	-	-	-	381
To Labuan	-	-	-	-	70
To Honolulu	-	-	-	-	361
Total	-	-	-	-	<u>12,992</u>

Hong Kong.*Imports, Exports, and Shipping.*

7. No reliable statistics can be looked for at a free port in reference to imports and exports, but that the general trade of the Colony, both foreign and native, is in a very healthy state may be reasonably inferred from the increase of the number of ships over 1869 by 2,433, with a carrying capacity of 311,028 tons.

The Harbour Master attributes the great increase in the number of junks to less zealous performance of their duties by the officers in charge of the adjacent Custom Houses; but his information in such respect is not to be altogether relied upon, as although there may have been some slight relaxation of that close vigilance which was observed on their first establishment, still there is no doubt that the great increase in the number of junks is owing to the system adopted by the superior officials of the Chinese Customs at Canton of selling duty chops at reduced rates on goods carried in native bottoms.

In consequence, the Canton steamers carry but little goods, as being unable to compete with the reduced rates of the junks for freight and duty.

Grants of Land.

8. There has been but one grant of land during the year, viz. six acres for 999 years, at a yearly rental of 47*l*. There is no immediate prospect of any further extension of occupancies at Kowloon. On the contrary, there is rather a disposition on the part of the lot-holders to surrender their leases than add to their land investments.

Gaols and Prisoners.

9. The total number of prisoners convicted at the Supreme Court has increased from 75 in 1869, to 80 in 1870; and the convictions in the Police Magistrates' Court have advanced from 4,917 to 6,311.

I mentioned in the Report of last year that to the system of deportation, as carried out by Sir R. G. MacDonnell, was greatly owing the reduced number of prisoners under confinement in the gaol, and I also expressed an opinion that any relaxation of the system would result in as marked increase as had been the decrease.

Results have proved the accuracy of my conclusions, as I find that up to the 1st of June, 1870, the average number of prisoners in jail was 350, and that on the removal after that date of the practice of branding prisoners on deportation and flogging them when returning, the numbers went up to an average of 500.

Resorted to as is Hong Kong by the worst of characters from Canton and the main, it is greatly to be regretted that precautions so salutary and deterrent cannot be permanently adopted.

It is satisfactory to note that notwithstanding that the prison wards have been thronged in excess of 1869, there has been but little sickness, whilst the mortality was 25 per cent. less.

Hospitals.

Hong Kong.

10. The Colonial Surgeon has again drawn attention to the unfitness of the Civil Hospital for the purpose to which it is being devoted, as well in respect to size as to construction.

1,296 cases, he observes, have been treated in a structure which is neither large enough for nor adapted to the treatment of one-third of that number, and under such circumstances it seems that no further time should be lost in the erection of a new hospital. I urge it now especially in consequence of the approaching completion of the Pok-foo-lum reservoir, and the consequent greater ability of the Colony to bear the outlay.

Education.

11. The report made by Mr. Stewart of the state of the schools under his supervision is very interesting, the central school in Hong Kong having maintained its ground in respect to numbers, notwithstanding the apprehensions entertained that commercial depression, and the consequent inability of many to obtain mercantile employment, might cause them to withdraw.

It may well be inferred from this, as Mr. Stewart very justly observes, that education is being appreciated by the parents and boys as much for its own sake as for the mere making of money, for which it might have been considered a preparation. Indeed, it is scarcely possible to arrive at any other conclusion, looking at the ten subjects in which the first or highest class was examined, viz. algebra, arithmetic, chemistry, dictation, English composition, geography, geometry, grammar, translation from Chinese into English, and from English into Chinese.

The village schools, which are free schools entirely supported by the Government, are twelve in number, and the schools in receipt of grants in aid are now eleven in number, five having been added during the year. These latter schools differ from the ordinary village schools simply in this, that the villagers provide the school-house and select the master, who gets one half of his salary in kind from the parents and the other half, amounting to \$60, from the Government. The system is not approved by Mr. Stewart for the reasons given by him at length.

The number of scholars taught in the Government schools during 1870 was as follows:—boys, 1,191; girls, 111, and the cost incurred was \$14,232.01, or 2,965*l.* 0*½d.*

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

HONG KONG,

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE

REVENUE.	1869.		1870.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
Land Revenue -	182,811	08	180,819	72	—	—	2,991	26
Rents, exclusive of Lands -	50,038	47	50,810	19	771	72	—	—
Licences:—								
Spirit Retailers -	31,590	65	30,872	22	—	—	718	43
Pawnbrokers -	7,700	00	8,050	00	350	00	—	—
Auctioneers -	4,200	00	2,900	00	—	—	900	00
Tenements for Emigrants -	176	95	250	55	73	60	—	—
Emigration Brokers -	2,400	00	1,600	00	—	—	800	00
Billiard Tables and Bowling Alleys -	1,275	00	1,200	00	—	—	75	00
Opium Monopoly -	108,660	00	113,080	00	4,420	00	—	—
Boarding Houses -	400	00	352	00	—	—	48	00
Marriage -	75	00	70	00	—	—	5	00
Chinese Undertakers -	70	00	70	00	—	—	—	—
Money Changers -	675	00	590	00	—	—	85	00
Marine Store Dealers -	2,625	00	2,965	00	340	00	—	—
Spirit Distillers -	—	—	100	00	100	00	—	—
Taxes:—								
Stamps -	95,812	51	107,848	21	12,035	70	—	—
Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates -	178,717	09	185,188	87	6,471	48	—	—
Postage -	64,854	28	68,237	33	—	—	1,516	95
Fines of Courts -	10,639	70	9,654	82	—	—	984	88
Forfeitures of Courts -	1,453	14	262	21	—	—	1,170	93
Fees of Courts -	4,645	28	2,325	41	—	—	1,319	87
Fees of Office:—								
On Cemetery Burials -	938	00	892	75	—	—	45	25
Licences for Junka, &c. -	8,238	00	6,909	00	—	—	1,329	00
Passes -	7,885	75	8,810	25	924	50	—	—
Registry of Boats -	3,675	84	3,741	45	65	61	—	—
Registry of Cargo Boats and Crews -	1,357	41	1,376	69	19	28	—	—
Registry of Hawkers -	1,801	25	1,690	25	—	—	111	00
Cargo Boats' Certificates -	195	00	225	00	30	00	—	—
Registration of Householders -	2,238	50	1,643	25	—	—	595	25
Registration of Servants, &c. -	298	00	269	75	—	—	28	25
Official Signatures -	88	00	235	00	147	00	—	—
Registration of Deeds -	1,633	50	1,068	50	—	—	565	00
Shipping Seamen -	7,118	00	6,892	00	—	—	221	00
Examination of Masters and Mates -	610	00	430	00	—	—	180	00
Colonial Registers -	50	00	30	00	—	—	20	00
Merchant Shipping Act -	613	00	581	00	—	—	82	00
Registry of Chairs, Carriages, &c. -	1,419	60	1,641	60	222	00	—	—
Registration of Companies -	108	00	1,738	50	1,630	50	—	—
Medical Fees on Examination of Emigrants -	4,707	25	3,783	00	—	—	924	25
Sale of Government Property -	521	75	642	11	120	36	—	—
Mint -	60,102	71	40,000	00	—	—	20,102	71
Reimbursements -	87,579	43	68,999	73	—	—	18,579	70
Miscellaneous Receipts -	18,965	09	12,144	69	—	—	1,820	40
Interest -	8,958	08	26,539	42	17,581	34	—	—
Special Receipts, under Ordinance No. 10 of 1867 -	10,806	10	10,696	20	—	—	109	90
	\$ 923,653	01	914,976	37	45,353	09	54,029	73
Deduct Increase							\$45,353	09
Net Decrease							\$8,676	64

Colonial Treasury, Victoria, Hong Kong,
29th March, 1871.A. F. ALVES,
Accountant.

of the COLONY of HONG KONG in 1869 and 1870.

HONG KONG.

EXPENDITURE.	1869.		1870.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
Civil Departments :—								
Governor - - -	25,533	77	25,812	93	259	16	—	—
Colonial Secretary - - -	27,557	47	25,378	41	—	—	2,179	06
Colonial Treasurer - - -	15,322	81	11,787	98	—	—	3,534	83
Auditor-General - - -	12,001	06	19,096	39	7,004	73	—	—
Clerk of Councils - - -	1,031	00	960	00	—	—	71	00
Surveyor-General - - -	29,493	08	82,206	68	2,713	60	—	—
Master of the Mint - - -	7,433	81	—	—	—	—	7,433	81
Postmaster-General - - -	40,210	04	41,603	80	1,393	76	—	—
Registrar-General - - -	14,088	58	14,986	63	898	05	—	—
Harbour Master - - -	37,035	86	37,406	65	370	79	—	—
Collector of Stamp Revenue - - -	3,880	55	3,844	90	—	—	35	65
Judicial Departments - - -	39,324	46	40,000	56	676	10	—	—
Registrar of Companies' Department - - -	192	00	192	00	—	—	—	—
Ecclesiastical Department - - -	4,950	00	4,974	00	24	00	—	—
Educational Department - - -	11,759	35	13,972	68	2,213	33	—	—
Medical Department - - -	24,781	53	29,315	22	4,533	69	—	—
Police Magistrates' Department - - -	17,782	60	16,800	40	—	—	1,482	20
Police Department - - -	175,101	60	157,506	54	—	—	17,595	06
Gaol Department - - -	39,558	73	40,964	31	1,405	58	—	—
Fire Brigade Department - - -	16,491	05	6,251	95	—	—	10,239	10
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities - - -	16,623	99	18,260	95	1,636	96	—	—
Charitable Allowances - - -	928	84	970	86	43	42	—	—
Transport - - -	2,516	90	5,892	75	3,375	85	—	—
Works and Buildings - - -	165,145	02	188,993	62	—	—	28,151	40
Roads, Streets, and Bridges - - -	25,941	11	20,250	83	—	—	5,690	28
Miscellaneous Services - - -	62,240	51	87,258	61	—	—	24,981	90
Land and Houses Purchased - - -	—	—	39,314	29	39,314	29	—	—
Special Expenses - - -	5,000	00	—	—	—	—	5,000	00
Military Contribution - - -	90,819	14	93,720	76	2,901	62	—	—
	\$ 912,853	46	\$ 877,224	10	68,764	98	104,894	29
Deduct Increase - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$ 68,764	93
Net Decrease - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	\$ 35,629	36

Examined, J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
Auditor-General.CECIL C. SMITH,
Acting Colonial Treasurer.

**REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the COLONY of HONG KONG during the Year ended
31st December, 1870.**

REVENUE.	Amount.	EXPENDITURE.	Amount.
Land Revenue - - - -	\$ 130,519 72	Civil Departments :—	\$ c.
Rents, exclusive of Lands	50,810 19	Governor - - - -	25,812 98
Licences :—		Colonial Secretary - -	25,378 41
Spirit Retailers - - -	\$ 30,872 22	Colonial Treasurer - -	11,787 98
Pawnbrokers - - - -	8,050 00	Auditor-General - - -	19,096 39
Auctioneers - - - -	3,900 00	Clerk of Councils - - -	960 00
Tenements for Emigrants	250 55	Surveyor-General - - -	32,206 68
Emigration Brokers - -	1,600 00	Postmaster-General - -	41,603 80
Billiard Tables and Bowl- ing Alleys - - - -	1,200 00	Registrar-General - -	14,986 63
Opium Monopoly - - -	113,080 00	Harbour Master - - -	37,406 65
Boarding Houses - - -	352 00	Collector of Stamp Re- venue - - - -	3,844 90
Marriage - - - -	70 00	Judicial Departments -	40,000 56
Chinese Undertakers - -	70 00	Registrar of Companies'	
Money Changers - - -	590 00	Department - - - -	192 00
Marine Store Dealers -	2,965 00	Ecclesiastical Department	4,974 00
Spirit Distillers - - -	100 00	Educational Department -	13,972 68
Taxes :—		Medical Department - -	29,315 22
Stamps - - - -	107,848 21	Police Magistrates' De- partment - - - -	16,300 40
Police, Lighting, Water, and Fire Brigade Rates	185,188 57	Police Department - -	157,506 54
Postage - - - -		Gaoi Department - - -	40,964 31
Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts :—		Fire Brigade Department	6,251 96
Fines - - - -	9,654 82	Pensions, Retired Allow- ances, and Gratuities -	18,260 95
Forfeitures - - - -	262 21	Charitable Allowances -	970 28
Fees - - - -	3,325 41	Transport - - - -	5,892 75
Fees of Office :—		Works and Buildings -	138,993 62
On Cemetery Burials - -	892 75	Roads, Streets, and Bridges	20,250 83
Licences for Junks, &c. -	6,909 00	Miscellaneous Services -	37,258 61
Passes - - - -	8,810 25	Land and Houses Pur- chased - - - -	39,314 29
Registry of Boats - - -	3,741 45	Military Contribution -	93,720 76
Registry of Cargo Boats and Crews - - - -	1,376 69		
Registry of Hawkers - -	1,690 25		
Cargo Boats' Certificates -	225 00		
Registration of House- holders - - - -	1,643 25		
Registration of Ser- vants, &c. - - - -	269 75		
Official Signatures - -	235 00		
Registration of Deeds - -	1,068 50		
Shipping Seamen - - -	6,892 00		
Examination of Masters and Mates - - - -	430 00		
Colonial Registers - - -	30 00		
Merchant Shipping Act -	531 00		
Registry of Chairs, Car- riages, &c. - - - -	1,641 60		
Registration of Companies	1,738 50		
Medical Fees on Exami- nation of Emigrants -	3,783 00		
	41,907 99		
Sale of Government Property -	642 11		
Mint - - - -	40,000 00		
Reimbursements - - -	68,999 73		
Miscellaneous Receipts -	12,144 69		
Interest - - - -	*26,539 42		
Special Receipts, under Ordinance No. 10 of 1867 - - - -	10,696 20		
Total - - - -	\$ 914,976 37	Total - - - -	\$ 877,224 10

* The sum of \$26,539.42 rec'd for interest is inclusive of the interest payable on Special Fund Deposits, which will have to be transferred to that account.

A. F. ALVES, Examined, J. GARDINER AUSTIN, CECIL C. SMITH,
Accountant, Auditor-General, Acting Colonial Treasurer.
Colonial Treasury, Victoria, Hong Kong, 29th March, 1871.

HONG KONG.
—

(No. 16.)

SIR, General Post Office, Hong Kong, March 17, 1871.

I have the honour to lay before you, for presentation to his Excellency Major-General Whitfield, Lieutenant-Governor, the Eleventh Annual Report on the Post Office, being that for the year 1870.

2. The principal changes of interest which have taken place in the postal service during the year are as follows, viz. :—

3. The two marine sorters previously employed on the line between Hong Kong and Shanghai have been withdrawn for general duty in this office, and arrangements have been made for completely sorting the mails for Shanghai before they leave Hong Kong. By this change of system the residents of Shanghai obtain the advantage of having their letters, by both the English and French packets, delivered immediately on arrival, and this without extra charge, the alteration having been made with a view to discourage the transmission of letters outside the mails. Similar arrangements have been made at the British Post Office at Shanghai to enable the letters for Hong Kong to be dispatched ready for immediate delivery on their reaching this office. The Imperial Postmaster-General has withdrawn the officers employed in sorting the homeward Indian, China, and Australian mails, on board the Mediterranean packets; the mails from Hong Kong are now therefore subdivided in this office, so as to facilitate the arrangements made for sorting them on their arrival in England.

4. The Director-General of the Posts in France has consented to a proposal to send closed mails by the French packets between this office and the British Post Office at Shanghai and Yokohama, instead of forwarding the correspondence for the community at those Settlements in the mails for the French Post Offices, thereby accelerating the delivery of the local correspondence.

5. Sanction having been obtained to the mails from London for Shanghai and Yokohama which are brought to Hong Kong by French packet being delivered over to this office, advantage has been taken of one or two opportunities of sending the mails forward to Shanghai earlier than they would have reached their destination by the branch French packet for Shanghai.

6. Arrangements have been completed under which correspondence brought from Batavia by French packet to Singapore is sent to this office by the first packet leaving for Hong Kong, instead of, as formerly, awaiting the departure of the next French packet to China, which involved, in some cases, a delay of twenty days.

7. Arrangements have been completed under which British closed mails between Hong Kong and Nagasaki, and between Hong Kong and Hiogo, are conveyed from Shanghai and Yokohama respectively by means of the United States' mail packets; the demand made by the United States' Post Office for their conveyance has however necessitated a small extra rate of postage on correspondence thus conveyed, but the advantages gained for the public by these arrangements are manifest.

8. The hour of dispatch of the homeward British mail packets

Hong Kong.

from Hong Kong has been advantageously changed from 9 A.M. to noon, making it conform to the hour of dispatch of the French packets.

9. With a view to averting the inconvenience which has sometimes been experienced here on account of the late arrival of the British mail packets from Yokohama, their departure from Yokohama has been made one day earlier than formerly.

10. The scale of progression of weight having half an ounce for its unit has been extended to letters sent between the British Post Offices in China and Japan, and Manila, Batavia, Saigon, Pondicherry, Bangkok, Labuan, Singapore, Penang, Malacca, Ceylon, India, Aden, Suez, Malta, and the Ionian Islands; Gibraltar, and Spain and Portugal via Gibraltar.

11. The reduction of the fee upon registered letters from six pence to four pence in 1866, was confined to letters to and from the United Kingdom, but during the past year this reduction has been applied to registered letters addressed to any British Colony or foreign country in transit through the United Kingdom: for instance, a letter addressed to the United States of America can now be registered through to its destination for a fee of 16 cents instead of 24 cents as formerly.

12. In July the outward French mail packets commenced to leave Marseilles every alternate Sunday, instead of every fourth Sunday, and a fortnightly French service was also begun on this side, thus affording, in conjunction with the packets of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, a weekly mail service to and from the United Kingdom; but soon after the commencement of hostilities between France and Prussia the French line was reduced to one packet each way every twenty-eight days.

13. Soon after the breaking out of the war between France and Prussia the difficulties attending the transmission of the mails through France were such as to necessitate the outward mails being sent by way of Belgium and the Brenner to Brindisi, for transmission thence by Italian packet; the homeward mails followed the same route.

14. The number of letters sent between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong by means of the unsubsidized steamers proceeding through the Suez Canal has been very inconsiderable.

15. Negotiations are being carried on having for their object a regular exchange of direct mails between Hong Kong and Brindisi, including, of course, on the one side, correspondence for Italy and the Continent from China and Japan, and on the other, letters from Italy and the States beyond for Hong Kong, China, and Japan.

16. The rates of commission on money orders issued in the United Kingdom on Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Yokohama have been increased, and although the commission on money orders issued at these places on the United Kingdom has also been increased, the charges are still much less than those made at home. So far, the revenue derived to the Colony by the introduction of the money-order system has been unremunerative.

17. During the year the money orders drawn upon the United Kingdom have been as follows, viz. :— Hong Kong.

No. of Money Orders Drawn.	Place.	Amount.	Commission which accrued to the Colony.	
1,839	Hong Kong	£ 10,052 10 7	dols.	cts.
669	Shanghai	3,146 4 9	255	97
517	Yokohama	2,822 5 1	87	52
3,015		£16,021 0 5	72	87
			\$416	36

The amount remitted by means of money orders drawn on the United Kingdom in 1870, is 6,024*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* in excess of that remitted in 1869.

18. The money orders drawn in the United Kingdom have been as follows, viz. :—

No. of Money Orders Drawn.	Place.	Amount.	Commission which accrued to the Colony.	
32	On Hong Kong	£ 144 12 6	dols.	cts.
6	„ Shanghai	14 11 10	7	18
8	„ Yokohama	32 18 8	0	78
46		£192 3 0	1	60
			\$9	56

The amount remitted from the United Kingdom by means of money orders drawn upon Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Yokohama, in 1870, is 35*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* in excess of that remitted in 1869.

19. The following figures show the result of the local money-order system :—

	Number.	Amount.		Commission.	
		dols.	cts.	dols.	cts.
Money orders drawn in Hong Kong on Shanghai	25	417	16	4	20
„ „ „ „ Yokohama	13	220	76	2	40
„ „ Shanghai on Hong Kong	90	2,560	74	21	15
„ „ Yokohama „	80	1,995	08	15	15
Total - - - - -	208	\$5,193	72	\$42	90

20. The following statement shows a nominal increase amounting to \$5,217·26 in the gross postal revenue of 1870 over that of 1869, but as the amount of uncollected revenue at the end of 1870 was \$118·68 less than that which was outstanding at the end of 1869, the actual excess of gross revenue in 1870, as compared with the revenue of 1869, is \$5,103·58, a result which I submit is very satisfactory in the present state of affairs on the Continent, which in partially paralyzing commerce, has doubtless diminished correspondence.

Howe Kowa.

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

21.		£	s.	d.	\$
Total Revenue collected in 1870 -	-	38,934	11	8	= 186,886·00
Add amount received from Imperial Post Office towards the maintenance of the postal agencies in China and Japan -		1,270	0	0	= 6,096·00
		40,204	11	8	= 192,982·00
Total Revenue collected in 1869 -	-	39,117	13	1	= 187,764·74
Total increase in 1870, as compared with 1869 -	- - - - -	£1,086	18	7	= \$5,217·26

Amount of Imperial Revenue collected in 1870:—

Remittances to	£	s.	d.	
London -	24,385	19	8	
Contributions to agencies -	1,270	0	0	
	25,655	19	8	= 123,148·72
Amount of Imperial Revenue collected in 1869 -	25,882	8	6½	= 124,235·66
Decrease in 1870 as compared with 1869	£226	8	10½	= \$1,086·94

Amount of Colonial Revenue collected in 1870 -	- - -	69,833·28
" " " " 1869 -	- - -	63,529·08
Increase in 1870 as compared with 1869 -	- - -	\$6,304·20

The Colonial Expenditure in 1870, including \$3,135·45 paid for the conveyance of ship mails, amounts to -	- -	40,363·46
Less contributed by Imperial Post Office in aid of maintenance of agencies at the ports -	- - -	6,096·00
Expenditure borne by the Colony in 1870 -	- - -	34,267·46
" " " 1869 -	- - -	33,872·70
Increase in 1870, as compared with 1869 -	- - -	\$394·76

22. It will thus be observed that the excess of the Colony's postal revenue over its ordinary expenditure for Post Office purposes during the past year amounted to \$35,565·82.

23.		£	s.	d.
The Colony's share of the postage on mails received from the United Kingdom in 1870 was -	- - -	1,894	11	6½
Ditto ditto in 1869 was -	- - -	1,875	19	7½
Increase in 1870 -	- - -	£18	11	11
24.				
The number of ship mails sent in 1870 was -	- - -	1,816		
" " " 1869 " -	- - -	1,839		
Decrease in 1870 -	- - -	23		

The number of ship mails received in 1870 was	-	-	-	1,191	Hong Kong.
" " " 1869 "	-	-	-	1,178	—
Increase in 1870	-	-	-	18	

25.		Letters.	Papers.
The number of letters and papers received by			
United States' packets in 1870 was	-	14,572	16,820
In 1869	-	12,039	16,374
Increase in 1870	-	2,533	446

		Letters.	Papers.
The number of letters and papers sent by United			
States' packets in 1870 was	-	21,145	21,055
In 1869	-	17,549	14,090
Increase in 1870	-	3,596	6,965

26. The San Francisco route has not been much availed of for the transmission of letters between the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

27. The number of letters and papers sent from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom has been as follows, viz. :—

BY BRITISH PACKET.

		Letters.	Papers.
In 1870	-	191,539	152,862
In 1869	-	188,201	168,761
Increase	-	3,338	Decrease 15,899

BY FRENCH PACKET.

		Letters.	Papers.
In 1870	-	28,007	9,194
In 1869	-	16,210	3,672
Increase	-	11,797	5,522

28. The weight of letters sent to the United Kingdom in 1870 has been as follows :—

BY BRITISH PACKET.

		tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870	-	2	13	0	16	10½
In 1869	-	2	19	1	5	13
Decrease	-	0	6	0	17	2½

C

HONG KONG.

BY FRENCH PACKET.

			tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870	-	-	0	10	0	24	8
In 1869	-	-	0	5	1	26	6½
Increase	-	-	0	4	2	26	1½

29. The weight of letters received from the United Kingdom in 1870, has been as follows:—

PER BRITISH PACKET.

			tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870	-	-	2	1	2	2	10
In 1869	-	-	2	9	3	3	12
Decrease	-	-	0	8	1	1	2

PER FRENCH PACKET.

			tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
In 1870	-	-	0	3	2	11	1½
In 1869	-	-	0	3	2	15	13½
Decrease	-	-	0	0	0	4	12

			tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
30.							
The total weight of letters sent from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom in 1870 was			3	3	1	13	2½
Ditto ditto in 1869 „			3	4	3	4	3½
Decrease	-	-	0	1	1	19	0½

			tons	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
The total weight of letters received from the United Kingdom in 1870 was	-		2	5	0	13	11½
Ditto ditto in 1869 „	-		2	13	1	19	9½
Decrease	-	-	0	8	1	5	14

31. The registered letters received from London in 1870							
numbered	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,687
Ditto ditto in 1869 numbered	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,451
Excess in 1870	-	-	-	-	-	-	236

32. The registered letters sent to London from Hong Kong							
in 1870 numbered	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,517
Ditto ditto from Shanghai	-	-	-	-	-	-	718
Ditto ditto from Yokohama	-	-	-	-	-	-	459
Ditto ditto from other ports	-	-	-	-	-	-	117
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,811
Total number of registered letters sent in 1869	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,340
Excess in 1870	-	-	-	-	-	-	471

33. The number of registered letters sent to—

Hong Kong.

India during 1870 was -	449
Galle -	28
Australia -	186
The Straits -	87
The Continent of Europe -	123
The Ports in China and Japan -	114
Total -	937
In 1869 -	647
Excess in 1870 -	290

The number of registered letters received from—

India during 1870 was -	659
Galle -	1,011
Australia -	225
The Straits -	875
The Continent of Europe -	240
The Ports in China and Japan -	194
Total -	3,198
In 1869 -	2,815
Excess in 1870 -	883

34. The amount realized by the sale of postage stamps in 1870 was \$144,131·48, of which stamps of the value of \$85,258·12 were sold in Hong Kong, and the remainder, viz. \$58,873·36, at the Post Office agencies at the ports, showing an *increase* of \$8,427·24 in those sold in Hong Kong, and a *decrease* of \$20,081·28 in those sold at the ports, as compared with 1869.

35. I annex a list of the number and value of each kind of postage stamps sold in 1870 and 1869, showing the increase or decrease, as the case may be, under each head, viz. :—

Postage Stamps sold in 1870.			Postage Stamps sold in 1869.		Increase.		Decrease.	
Denom- nation.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
cents.		dols. cts.		dols. cts.		dols. cts.		dols. cts.
2	261,179	5,223 58	244,941	4,898 82	16,238	324 76	—	—
4	155,927	6,237 08	148,382	5,935 28	7,545	301 80	—	—
6	117,160	7,029 60	147,832	8,869 92	—	—	30,672	1,840 32
8	253,228	20,258 24	244,305	19,544 40	8,923	713 84	—	—
12	60,664	7,279 68	70,297	8,435 64	—	—	9,633	1,155 96
18	8,640	1,555 20	8,604	1,548 72	36	6 48	—	—
24	114,846	27,563 04	116,372	27,929 28	—	—	1,526	366 24
30	106,243	31,872 90	110,747	33,224 10	—	—	4,504	1,351 20
48	27,891	13,387 68	35,636	17,105 28	—	—	7,745	3,717 60
96	24,713	23,724 48	29,473	28,294 08	—	—	4,760	4,569 60
Totals		\$ 144,131 48		\$ 155,785 52		\$ 1,346 88		\$ 13,000 92

36. The correspondence on official business sent from this Department to private individuals and firms, to the postal agents at the

Hong Kong.

ports and to the various public offices, has materially increased, as has also the official correspondence received.

37. Returns are appended, marked *A* and *B*, from which it is satisfactory to notice that the British mail packets have arrived with the mails from home with punctuality, that the average time occupied in making the voyage has been less than it was in the previous year, and that 39 days is the shortest time in which a mail has been conveyed from London to Hong Kong via Marseilles, and 38 days via Brindisi. The return marked *C* shows that 38 days was also the shortest time occupied by the French packets in delivering a mail from London. On one occasion, however, the French packet arrived without a mail from London. Owing to the communication across France having been interrupted, this mail had failed to reach Marseilles in time; it was brought forward by the following British packet.

38. A return, marked *D*, is appended of the arrivals and departures of the United States' mail packets at Hong Kong, from which it will be observed that the voyage from San Francisco to Hong Kong has been performed five times in 33 days; and that the voyage to San Francisco has been accomplished on three occasions in 32 days. The average time occupied in the voyage from San Francisco has been $34\frac{1}{2}$ days against $35\frac{1}{2}$ days in 1869.

I have, &c.,

F. W. MITCHELL,

Postmaster-General.

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
Colonial Secretary.

CENSUS of HONG KONG, including the MILITARY and NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS,
April 2, 1871.

	Population.				Total.
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	
Europeans and Americans, resident population	1,381	684	407	264	2,736
British, military	709	36	45	31	821
" naval establishment	1,022	—	—	—	1,022
Europeans, police	109	8	6	3	126
" and Americans, mercantile shipping	1,080	29	—	—	1,109
in the harbour	57	—	—	—	57
Europeans and Americans, temporary residents	60	—	—	—	60
" prisoners	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Europeans and Americans	4,418	757	458	298	5,931
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood, resident	470	97	54	64	685
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood, crews of mercantile vessels in harbour	697	6	—	—	703
Indians, military	1,094	10	9	9	1,122
" police	285	8	3	2	298
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood, prisoners	15	—	—	—	15
Total of Indians, &c.	2,561	121	66	75	2,823
Chinese in employ of Europeans, resident	5,436	808	170	195	6,609
" " in harbour	548	2	—	—	550
" police	223	—	—	—	223
" employed by naval and military establishments	458	—	—	—	458
Chinese residing in Victoria	47,647	14,269	5,299	5,769	72,984
" villages and Kowloon	6,325	2,051	1,296	835	10,507
Boat population in Victoria	6,021	2,542	2,142	1,604	12,309
" other than in Victoria	5,136	8,010	1,840	1,414	11,400
Prisoners	391	13	—	—	404
Total of Chinese	72,185	22,695	10,747	9,817	115,444
	79,164	23,573	11,271	10,190	124,198

Of Europeans and Americans, fixed residents, there are:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
British	524	160	102	83	869
Portuguese	447	467	290	163	1,367
German	152	14	—	4	170
American	94	17	11	11	133
French	48	9	1	2	60
Danish	22	1	—	—	23
Italian	11	13	—	1	25
Spanish	35	—	2	—	37
Swiss	8	—	—	—	8
Austrian	2	1	1	—	4
Norwegian	7	—	—	—	7
Swedish	9	—	—	—	9
Russian	6	—	—	—	6
Belgian	4	—	—	—	4
Mexican	3	—	—	—	3
Dutch	2	—	—	—	2
Turkish	3	1	—	—	4
Hungarian	2	1	—	—	3
Grecian	2	—	—	—	2
	1,381	684	407	264	2,736

Hong Kong.

DETAILED RETURN of the Number and Description of Vessels Anchored and Lying in the Harbour and Bay of Hong Kong, and their Population.

Description of Vessels.	Victoria.						Aberdeen, &c.						Shaukiwan, &c.						Stanley, &c.						Kowboong.						Total.														
	No. of Vessels.			Adults.			Children.			No. of Vessels.			Adults.			Children.			No. of Vessels.			Adults.			Children.			No. of Vessels.			Adults.			Children.			No. of Vessels.			Adults.			Children.		
	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.	M.	F.	P.									
Trading junks -	84	1,408	39	44	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	185	6	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	34	-	-	97	1,627	45	55	15	15										
Passage boats -	159	613	191	181	180	2	-	-	-	6	45	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	18	10	3	5	175	718	201	184	135	135									
Cargo boats -	288	1,093	339	337	312	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	40	22	25	11	301	1,133	361	362	323	323									
Fishing boats -	258	742	400	362	262	114	688	284	206	152	91	319	112	101	46	122	449	238	200	176	-	-	-	-	68	163	109	119	65	651	2,335	1,143	988	701	701										
Stone boats -	9	74	13	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	264	10	11	2	41	338	23	17	17	17									
Hakow boats -	62	217	132	115	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	25	12	11	2	68	243	144	126	104	104										
Sampans -	676	1,025	1,009	638	520	254	540	432	216	196	696	1,900	1,413	647	613	12	33	5	3	4	267	328	319	236	108	1,905	3,826	3,178	1,740	1,438	3,826	3,178	1,740	1,438	1,438	1,438									
Bumboats	33	103	14	24	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	30	2	1	1	38	133	16	25	13	13										
Pilots -	5	42	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	5	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	8	10	7	12	66	16	21	10	10										
Pullaway boats -	250	568	349	365	186	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17	18	24	7	265	538	860	393	266	266										
Water boats -	48	136	62	69	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	14	3	2	2	52	150	65	71	50	50										
Total -	1,872	6,021	2,542	2,142	1,604	370	1,225	716	422	348	808	2,465	1,538	773	670	136	502	243	208	186	419	944	513	442	216	3,605	11,357	5,532	3,982	3,018	11,357	5,532	3,982	3,018	3,018	3,018									

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS.

HONG KONG.

Class of School.	No. of Schools.	No. of British and Foreign Scholars.		Total No. of British and Foreign Scholars.	No. of Chinese Scholars.		Total No. of Chinese Scholars.	Grand Total.
		Boys.	Girls.		Boys.	Girls.		
Government - - -	24	23	—	23	1,168	111	1,279	1,302
Roman Catholic, including Reformatory - - -	6	105	80	185	136	182	318	503
Diocesan Orphanage - - -	1	12	7	19	3	7	10	29
London Mission - - -	2	—	—	—	60	—	60	60
Private School - - -	2	9	9	18	—	—	—	18
Berlin Mission - - -	1	—	—	—	—	20	20	20
Basle Mission - - -	1	—	—	—	—	50	50	50
Chinese General - - -	32	—	—	—	685	4	689	689
" Private - - -	5	—	—	—	29	6	35	35
	74	149	96	245	2,081	380	2,461	2,706

CENSUS of HONG KONG for each YEAR on 31st DECEMBER from 1858 to 1869, and CENSUS 1870-71, exclusive of MILITARY, NAVAL, and POLICE Establishments.

	1858.	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.
	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
Europeans and Americans -	1,109	1,034	1,592	1,557	1,604	1,644.
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood -	566	477	784	1,284	1,268	1,336
Aliens, chiefly seamen and temporary residents -	82	150	100	100	100	100
Chinese in the employ of Europeans -	2,618	3,166	3,940	4,111	4,897	4,937
Chinese residing in Victoria	42,799	45,053	52,916	61,958	63,380	65,351
Chinese residing in villages	4,704	4,574	5,276	11,215	12,297	12,550
Chinese boat population in Victoria Harbour -	16,277	14,701	17,417	18,871	21,336	20,699
Other than Victoria Harbour	5,648	16,136	11,142	12,038	10,303	9,838
Vagrants - - -	1,500	1,500	1,600	2,508	2,500	2,500
Emigrants - - -	200	150	150	229	200	200
Street coolies - - -	—	—	—	5,000	5,000	5,000
Prisoners, &c. - - -	—	—	—	450	626	695
	75,503	86,941	94,917	119,321	123,511	124,850

	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868-69.	1870-71.
	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
Europeans and Americans -	1,963	2,034	2,113	2,151	2,289	2,736
Goa, Manila, Indian, and others of mixed blood -	1,488	1,645	1,231	1,150	997	1,388
Aliens, chiefly seamen and temporary residents -	100	150	200	250	130	57
Chinese in the employ of Europeans -	6,239	6,836	6,658	6,451	6,739	7,617
Chinese residing in Victoria	67,743	73,803	65,606	75,743	72,959	72,984
Chinese residing in villages	11,886	11,371	9,618	9,951	11,164	10,507
Chinese boat population in Victoria Harbour -	20,991	19,153	13,855	13,030	14,033	12,309
Other than Victoria Harbour	8,343	7,732	13,099	8,293	8,496	11,400
Vagrants - - -	2,000	2,000	2,000	—	—	—
Emigrants - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Street coolies - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prisoners, &c. - - -	795	780	718	452	478	479
	121,498	125,504	115,098	117,471	117,285	119,477

Hong Kong.

Victoria, Hong Kong, January 17, 1871.

In my Sanitary Report for 1870, being the twelfth I have had the honour of submitting to the Government, I rejoice to be able to continue to record the improvement which has taken place in the health of the Colony since 1858. When the sudden and startling death of several members of our community is recalled to our recollection, we are prepared to find that 1870 has been eminently unhealthy. But the vital statistics of the past year, as shown in the following Tables, point out, that in the gaol, the improvement has been so marked that the mortality has been lower than in any year previously recorded; and if among the general community it appears somewhat larger, it must not be forgotten that the Tables are calculated upon the Census of 1869, and that the additional five deaths recorded would probably not increase the percentage of mortality above the average, if the Tables were compiled from more correct data, which will never be obtained until a proper system of registration of deaths is enforced by law. There can, however, be no doubt that in the early part of the summer, and up to the 3rd of August, there was a great and unusual increase of fever among the residents. For the most part it was not of a dangerous type, although by its tendency to relapse it caused great prostration; but in one or two cases it assumed something of the character of typhus, and proved rapidly fatal. Opinions varied among practitioners as to the cause of this disease, and I am aware that it was generally attributed to some cuttings in the hill side, and the spreading of the cut soil over the roads undergoing repair. I have never, however, concurred in this view, and believe that the sole cause of the malady must be traced to the remarkably small fall of rain which had taken place previous to the 3rd of August. I was led to form this opinion from the fact, that although cases of fever really did occur in the immediate neighbourhood of, and to leeward of these cuttings, and in certain localities in considerable number, this was not always the case; and not only was fever absent in certain other localities, equally exposed to the supposed exhalations, but it occurred both to windward of them, and in places where there had been no such cuttings. I think it much more reasonable to cast the onus on the absence of rain, and the state of our drains; for this reason, that no sooner did rain fall, on the 3rd of August, in sufficient quantity to wash out the sewers, than a marked amelioration took place in the health of the community.

RAINFALL from 1ST JANUARY to 31ST JULY for the last FOUR YEARS, registered at the GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

Months.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
January - -	1·07	0·79	0·78	0·30
February - -	0·40	0·49	3·21	0·40
March - - -	6·57	2·90	4·15	3·30
April - - -	2·23	6·55	4·17	0·31
May - - - -	10·62	10·07	10·01	16·26
June - - - -	8·22	30·79	9·12	5·04
July - - - -	17·11	5·53	6·83	4·74
Total - - -	46·22	57·12	38·27	30·35

And this naturally leads me to refer to the drains. It is not creditable to this Colony that after their unhealthy condition has been pointed out, both by myself and by the Sanitary Commission, they should remain as they are, a source of disease and death. In the early part of the past year the tenants and others interested in the Praya lots applied to the Government, through me, in regard to the seaward openings of the drains, and the noxious emanations from the foreshore, but the lowness of the public exchequer is the excuse offered for the unavoidable continuation of this most dangerous nuisance. Pending some more radical improvement, the drains should be run out into deep water, so as to prevent sewerage being exposed on the foreshore at low tides, and the openings trapped, to prevent the wind blowing up them, and thus forcing the foul air out at the various gratings throughout the town. Carbolic acid has been freely used, but no amount of it will suffice, until the system of drainage has been entirely remodelled as recommended by the Sanitary Commission.

Typhus fever was imported in eight vessels from Yokohama between the 10th February and the 11th May—and all these vessels were placed in quarantine. In the eight vessels there were thirteen cases of fever, of which number one terminated fatally. The Health Officer of the port, Dr. Adams, has, as promised last year, sent in a Report on the subject of the connection between this disease and the ballasting of ships with tidal mud, a subject which has attracted considerable attention in other countries. Of 235 vessels in ballast, only 20 carried mud alone, obtained from Shanghai; and in those 20 no case of fever occurred; “124 of the total number came from Yokohama, Japan, ballasted either with ordinary soil, obtained from the hill side, or with muddy shingle, taken from the beach:” “eight of the ships so ballasted had typhus fever on board.” “It is significant that (although cases of typhus had occurred on shore at Yokohama, where the crews might have been infected) no typhus fever was reported while the vessels had cargo on board, general or otherwise.” Now as Shanghai mud is unquestionably “tidal” and the ballast obtained at Yokohama was not strictly of this character, there does not appear to be any strong evidence afforded in the cases recorded in favour of the theory that it is a frequent source of typhus.

In the winter of 1869–70 there were very few cases of small-pox reported, but in December last they commenced to appear, and by the end of the year there had been 14 cases admitted into the Government Civil Hospital, and 46 into the Seamen's Hospital, besides seven in the Gaol. Since the beginning of the year the disease has been rapidly approaching an epidemic form, in spite of every precaution taken by the police to prevent it spreading.

No other epidemic visited the Colony during the past year.

I.—THE POLICE.

Although both the rate of sickness and the rate of mortality of this Force have been higher than in the previous year, it is not much above what it was in 1868, nor greatly in excess of the average rate.

HONG KONG.

Table I. shows the number of admissions into, and deaths in, the hospital, of members of the Police Force, during every month of 1870. The greatest number of admissions took place in August, but the greatest number of Europeans were admitted in June.

Table II. shows the rate per cent. of sickness and mortality of the Force during the same year.

Table III. shows the state of the health of the troops serving in Hong Kong during the year 1870 not to have been so good as in 1869, nor to compare as favourably with that of the police as it did in the previous year.

II.—THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

There is no institution in this Colony with which I am connected that I have less satisfaction in referring to. I do not complain of the management, or the staff of the hospital, for under Dr. Young's vigilant superintendence the results are most satisfactory, but the building is quite unfit for the purpose to which it is applied, both in regard to size and construction. During the past year no less than 1,296 cases have been treated in the present structure, which is neither large enough for, nor adapted to, the treatment of one-third of that number. There is, therefore, great reason for thankfulness that the rate of mortality has been less than in the previous year, although it exceeded that of 1868.

Table V., which gives the rate of mortality during the last twelve years, distinguishing that of Europeans from coloured persons and Chinese, shows at a glance that the general mortality has not reached the average, except in the case of coloured persons; that the rate of mortality is still much higher than it was in 1868 among Europeans, somewhat lower among coloured persons, and about the same as it was that year among Chinese.

By examining Table IV., which gives the number of admissions into, and the mortality in this hospital during the year 1870, it will be seen that the admissions have increased under the heading of small-pox, diarrhoea and dysentery, fevers, gonorrhœa, vertigo, pneumonia, pleuro-pneumonia and pleuritis, hepatitis and splinitis, drunkenness, and lastly impostors. The increased mortality resulted from small-pox, remittent and typhoid fever, dropsy, pneumonia, hepatitis and abscess of the liver, anæmia, fractures, and gun-shot wounds. There have been fewer admissions from phthisis, paralysis, and delirium tremens, bronchitis, colic, and notably both fewer admissions and deaths from jaundice and from all forms of wounds, except gun-shot wounds. There have also been fewer moribund persons sent to hospital, many, doubtless, having been taken to the "I-tze."

Table IX. shows the number of admissions into, and deaths in, the Government Civil Hospital during every month of 1870.

During the year six invalids were sent home by the Harbour Master and the United States' Consul, and I understand they all arrived in safety at their destination.

Table VI, A, B, and C, kindly sent to me by the Resident Surgeon, Dr. Adams, gives similar information in reference to the Seamen's Hospital as the preceding Tables give for the Civil

Hospital. The result of treatment has been eminently successful during the year, and the Tables are exceedingly satisfactory in consequence.

HEALTH REPORT.

III.—THE GAOL.

Table VII. shows the number of admissions into the Goal Hospital, and the deaths there, during the year 1870.

Table VIII. shows the rate of sickness and mortality in the Gaol Hospital, as compared with the total number of prisoners, and with the number treated during the year 1870. By this Table it will be seen that the total number of prisoners is greater than in 1869, that the rate of sickness was also greater, but the rate of mortality 25 per cent. less than in the previous year—less in absolute number than I have recorded since 1859, when there was a total of 2,484 prisoners, a daily average of 239, and 4 deaths.

The numbers imprisoned in Victoria Gaol during the past year were—

Europeans	-	-	-	-	-	1,099
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	155
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-	3,051
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>4,805</u>

The daily average was 482, of which number only 4 died. In 1869 the daily average was 465, the total number during the year 4,122, and the deaths 5.

It will be seen that the increase in the number of prisoners is entirely among Europeans, for refusal of duty and similar cases, and that the number of Chinese and coloured prisoners is even less than in 1869.

In 1869 the greatest number any one day in gaol was on the 10th February, when there were—

Europeans	-	-	-	-	-	85
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	18
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-	461
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>564</u>

The smallest number in prison was on the 3rd December, when there were—

Europeans	-	-	-	-	-	70
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	18
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-	304
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>392</u>

During the past year both the maximum and minimum number of prisoners have been in excess of the previous year. Thus the

Hong Kong. greatest number confined on any one day in 1870 was on the 31st August, when there were—

Europeans	-	-	-	-	-	113
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	13
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-	449
Total	-	-	-	-	-	575

The smallest number in gaol during the same year was on the 17th March, when there were—

Europeans	-	-	-	-	-	78
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	14
Chinese	-	-	-	-	-	338
Total	-	-	-	-	-	430

The greatest amount of sickness occurred on the 31st August, when there were :

Hospital cases	-	-	-	-	-	6
Trifling cases	-	-	-	-	-	20
Total	-	-	-	-	-	26

The smallest amount of sickness was recorded on the 11th November, when there were—

Hospital cases	-	-	-	-	-	0
Trifling cases	-	-	-	-	-	8
Total	-	-	-	-	-	8

There is very little to record in reference to the sickness of the past year in this institution. Three of the four deaths which occurred arose from fever, the fourth being a case of sun-stroke in an European. The building is neatness itself, and as long as its management continues in the able hands of Mr. Douglas, it must remain a model of good order, and perfect discipline, combined with as much kindness and consideration, as the control of such a number of criminals will admit of.

IV.—THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

In my last Annual Report I entered so fully into the question of the working of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, and this establishment, that I need do little more, on the present occasion, than refer to the statistics contained in Tables A, B, C, and D of the Appendix. It will be seen that a great improvement has taken place during the past year. In the two hospitals, the percentage of contagious diseases contracted in Hong Kong to all admissions, was

8·96, against nearly double that amount in 1869. In the garrison, the percentage of primary disease to the total strength was reduced to 5·51, against 6·83 in 1869, and among the British ships of war which have visited this port during the past year, only 116 cases of contagious disease were contracted in Hong Kong. In the Police a similar improvement has taken place, and the percentage of infection has been reduced from 16·66 in 1869 to 13·75 in 1870. Again, in turning to Table X., we find that the type of the disease is undergoing a steady improvement, under the strict surveillance to which the women are subjected; the average number of days of treatment having further diminished from 24·8 in 1869 to 23·1 in 1870. The whole of these Tables, as well as Table XIV., convey a large amount of information, and will well repay a careful study.

I have added, in Appendix E and F, a letter addressed to me by Deputy Inspector-General Pottinger, of H. M.'s Naval Hospital; and statistics from Surgeon Ramsay of H. M.'s 75th Regiment, in reference to the freedom of the men of his regiment from contagious disease. The evidence of these gentlemen is extremely valuable and gratifying to myself, under whose care the medical examinations have been carried on for the past twelve years. Both gentlemen have had experience of Hong Kong, and known what "Hong Kong Disease" was before the introduction of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance into the Colony; and both agree as to the great contrast. Dr. Pottinger says: "Judging from my own experience, I should say that syphilis has *all but* disappeared from the Colony." Dr. Ramsay writes: "I may add that during an experience of 16 years as an army medical officer in all climates, I have not seen a similar immunity."

Dr. Pottinger refers to my method of examination and says: "The instruments used by you are admirably adapted for bringing "into view the parts, including the os and cervix uteri, very quickly, "thoroughly, and without the least pain to the female." Deputy Inspector Dr. Bernard wrote to me in 1868: "I was much struck "by the method adopted by you, combining as it does an efficient "searching inspection with great rapidity of execution, and appearing "to me much better than that made with the ordinary speculum." Dr. Heffernan, Deputy Inspector-General, writing in regard to the same matter, refers to these instruments thus: "I have witnessed "this examination as carried out by you here, and consider it to be "done most effectually." Surgeon Major Barnier, of the French frigate 'Guerrière,' who had great experience in France, after expressing his opinion as to the "*peu de gravité et du petit nombre* "des cas de syphilis contractés par les Européens dans cette ville," says in reference to these instruments: "J'ai vu examiner ces "femmes avec un instrument inventé par le Docteur Murray, "Colonial Surgeon, et j'ai constaté que l'emploi, d'ailleurs très "facile, de cette instrument, permet d'examiner en moyenne trois "femmes par minute." I have only to add that Dr. Newton, who has charge of the Lock Hospitals and the prevention of syphilis in Japan, uses no other instruments, and writes of them: "They are "such effective instruments, much superior to any kind of speculum."

I shall be glad to find that the value of these instruments, which a

HONG KONG. twelve years' daily use has enabled me to perfect, is appreciated by the Profession, and that they are brought into general use, as it is impossible to imagine anything that could be used better adapted to the purpose for which they are intended, or more likely to facilitate the carrying out of the Ordinance with advantage. The two points I have constantly kept in view being rapidity of employment combined with an effectual and searching examination, I believe that I have succeeded in attaining these objects. This, however, is no place in which to describe the instruments themselves.

Table XI. shows the approximative estimate of the mortality among the foreign residents in Hong Kong during the past thirteen years. It does not include deaths among soldiers, sailors, whether of the Navy or Merchant Service, nor those buried from the hospitals, who are usually non-residents. It has no pretension to accuracy, nor can it be any more than approximative, until some system of registration of deaths is introduced. This is a matter of the greatest importance, and really of more interest to every resident in the Colony than is generally supposed, for until it is possible to obtain proper statistics of the actual mortality and the cause of death, in all cases, a valuable aid is withdrawn from the medical practitioner in the treatment of disease.

Table XII. gives the usual information regarding the work performed by the Inspector of Nuisances attached to this Department.

Table XIII. shows the annual mean state of the atmosphere during the year 1870, as recorded at the Government Civil Hospital.

J. I. MURRAY, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

SIR,

Hong Kong, February 28, 1871.

I have the honour to forward to you the Annual Report on the schools in this Colony under Government supervision during the year 1870.

2. The state in which these schools are will be best seen by considering them under the following division:—The Central School, the Village Schools supported by Government, and the schools receiving grants in aid.

3. A reference to the Tables which are subjoined will show that the Central School continues to maintain its ground in point of numbers, the average for the year being a little higher than for any previous year. Apprehensions of a falling off in the attendance may be said to have disappeared. The commercial prosperity of the Colony can hardly fall to a lower ebb than it has been at during the last few years, and, this being so, and the boys looking forward solely to mercantile employment, depression of trade, unless carried to a much further extent than has yet been experienced, can hardly be expected to interfere with the prosperity of the school. It is to be hoped that this is an indication of some appreciation of the school for its own sake rather than for any mere money-making for which it may be considered a preparation.

4. The highest attendance was in June, when there were 248 on the roll for the month. The lowest was in January, when the number was 208. The average for the year was 237. There is very little cause for complaint about irregularity. It would be difficult to find anywhere a school of the size more regularly attended. Sickness is the principal cause of absence, but even that prevails to a very small extent. The only absences which cause annoyance are those necessitated by some family matter, a marriage or a funeral. In such a case, nothing less than a month is thought sufficient, and, sometimes, no persuasion, not even a threat, avails to reduce the period of leave below six weeks. Nothing could more clearly show the extraordinarily little value which the Chinese set upon time, except, perhaps, what is seen at some of the villages, where many of the children leave school at the end of the tenth month, because it is then the end of the year. Of recent years, the number of long absences has been decreasing, and this is probably due, in a great measure, to the fact that the school holidays are fixed to suit the two most important Chinese holidays, those, namely, at the New Year and the Tomb Festival.

5. The greatest number of absentees was in August, when they amounted to 17; but of these 13 were absent from continued illness. The smallest number was in February, when there were 5, of whom 3 were sick. The average number of such absentees for the year was 12 per month. Taking all things into consideration, this number is exceedingly limited.

6. The result of the year's work, was, as usual, tested by written examinations in all the classes. A paper is set on each subject which the class has been taught during the year, and those who get less than one-third of the total number of marks assigned to the subjects of their class are considered as having failed. The total number of such failures in the six English classes was 20, or an average of about 3 to each class. Even this proportion, though small, is not due entirely to idleness, but arises, in the majority of cases, from promotion to a higher class but a few months before the examination. Another cause of failure is found in the case of boys other than Chinese. These, knowing but little of Chinese, lose the marks assigned for translation *from* and *into* that language.

7. It would occupy too much space either to give the examination lists and papers, or to analyze them minutely. They are, however, all recorded, and are available at any time when required. The boys themselves take great interest in these lists. They carefully note the number of marks they have gained in each particular subject, and take them as a guide to future study. The masters, too, look forward to the results with no little anxiety, as they find in them a test of their success or failure in teaching. The work of examination is necessarily very laborious, but what is gained by it more than compensates for the unusual exertion.

8. The first or highest class was examined in ten subjects,—Algebra, Arithmetic, Chemistry, Dictation, English Composition, Geography, Geometry, Grammar, Translation from Chinese into English, and Translation from English into Chinese. The total number of marks assigned to these subjects was 780, and the marks

HONG KONG.

gained by the first six on the list were respectively 683, 669, 669, 655, 643, and 633. After these, *nine* had over 500, *six* over 400, and *four* over 360 marks.

9. The other classes were examined on the same subjects,—Algebra, Chemistry, and Geometry excepted,—these being confined, at present, exclusively to the senior class. The general result of the examinations, previously referred to, must suffice, in this Report, for indicating the way in which these classes passed.

10. The Chemistry class, after a full year's experience, can now be reported on with some confidence. The course for the year embraced the most important of the non-metallic elements. No text-book has as yet been used, and it is a doubtful point whether one should be used, because the oral instruction given both ensures attention on the part of the class, and is also a test of their knowledge of English, the only language which is spoken. The class has been conducted in this way:—On Saturday a lesson is given with experiments. On Monday the boys bring in English an account of what they have heard and seen,—an exercise which serves the double purpose of fixing the lesson on their minds and of practising them in composition. In the course of the week, an hour is devoted to oral examination on the last, and a revisal of the preceding, subjects. There can be no hesitation in saying that this part of the school work is thoroughly enjoyed, and if one may judge by the papers written at the examination, not unprofitably.

11. The three junior classes are now taught the elements of Music, but this has been too lately introduced to permit of any report on the progress made. One lesson of one hour a week is all that has yet been attempted, although it is very questionable if such short time gives either class or subject fair play. At the same time, it is impossible at the Central School, where a language has to be acquired, to give the same time to such subjects as is given in schools where only one language is required of the scholars, and that their mother-tongue.

12. Drawing will be commenced in the three senior classes as soon as the materials arrive from England. There will then be an extra subject for each of the English masters,—for the Head Master Chemistry, for the Second Master Drawing, and for the Third Master Music. I need not say that these will be treated strictly as *extra* subjects. Nothing must be allowed to interfere with, or at least to impede, the learning of English.

13. The number of boys other than Chinese is gradually increasing, and, in a few years, will necessitate another master and an additional class-room. There are now 5 English, 2 Portuguese, 2 Japanese, and 14 Indian boys. The number of half-caste boys, too, has lately increased considerably. With this difference, that they are of a livelier temperament, owing probably to a less restrained up-bringing, and that they can enunciate more easily and clearly than their Chinese schoolfellows, due no doubt to their being accustomed from their infancy to the jargon which passes for English here, there is not much to distinguish them from those of purely Chinese descent. If anything, they are rather worse to manage, but when one considers the extreme docility of Chinese boys, this

trait scarcely deserves a passing notice. A school of Chinese boys is a disciplinarian's paradise. Hong Kong.

14. In the course of the year 95 boys left school. Of these, 40 are in business, some as interpreters, some as clerks, some as assistant compradores, some as assistants in Chinese shops, some as brokers, printers, and so on. Some have gone to California, some to Japan, others to Tientsin, Shanghai, Foochow, Canton, Macao, Saigon, Annam, and Bombay, while 25 remain in Hong Kong. Of the remainder, 8 left on account of sickness, 18 left the Colony along with their parents, 14 were removed from the roll principally for irregularities, 6 went to Chinese schools, 6 left for causes unknown, 1 was poor, 1 died, and 1 was married. Why the last should have considered himself excused it is difficult to say, for nearly all in the first class and many of those in the second are married.

15. There is nothing special to report in connection with the Chinese classes. They are three in number, and under three very competent masters. The same time is devoted to Chinese as to English, that is, four hours a day to each. Every effort is made, by weekly revisals and occasional examinations, to ensure as much attention to this part of the work as to that of the English classes; and this is the more necessary, as a good deal of latent opposition has to be encountered in the teaching of Chinese in the school. The people have very deeply-rooted notions of their own as to the selection of masters and the number of scholars whom one master should teach; and teaching by classes, while admitted to be very good in the teaching of English, is declared to be altogether unsuitable for the teaching of Chinese. Patience and perseverance will enable the school to outlive these prejudices.

16. The Preparatory Class, which was established to secure a certain knowledge of both English and Chinese before admission into the regular classes, has given proof of the usefulness which was expected of it. The mastership of this class is given as a reward to one of the best scholars taught in the school. Under him the boys learn the elements of reading, writing, and arithmetic, as a preparation for the English classes; and under one of the Chinese masters, who take this class alternately, they are prepared for the Chinese classes.

17. The school fees for the year amounted to \$1,701.65, of which the sum of \$1,460.75 was paid into the Treasury, and \$240.90, being the fees paid by the Preparatory Class, went to the payment of the teacher of that class.

18. There only remains, under this division, to acknowledge, on behalf of the school in general and of successful scholars in particular, the liberality of the Honourable C. C. Smith, Dr. Murray, Mr. Hayllard, Mr. Gerrard, Mr. Wai Kwong, and Mr. Kwok Cheung, who added so largely to the Prize Fund. While there is, no doubt, a good deal of hard work on the part of the boys, due to a desire for respectable and lucrative employment, the incentive to diligence produced by the valuable prizes which are given annually is of the most marked character. It is gratifying to be able to state that next year the list of donors will be considerably increased. These

None None.

and others of the community would add greatly to their kindness by coming and making personal experience of what the boys can or cannot do. It is matter of regret that while so many give liberally, so few care to come and judge of the school for themselves. This is not said from any desire to parade the school, than which nothing could be more distasteful; but it is not unnatural to wish that the public knew exactly what an institution is worth which needs so large a sum of the public money for its support.

19. The Village Schools, which are free schools supported entirely by Government, are twelve in number. They stand in the following order of efficiency, as tested by an examination of each school:—

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Stanley. | 7. Tang-lung Chau (Púnti). |
| 2. Sai-ying P'ún (Pún-ti). | 8. Aberdeen. |
| 3. Girls' School. | 9. West End. |
| 4. Bowrington. | 10. Tang-lung Chau (Hak-ka). |
| 5. Sai-ying P'ún (Hak-ka). | 11. Wong-nai Ch'ung. |
| 6. Webster's Crescent. | 12. Sháu-ki Wán. |

20. These, as has been said in previous Reports, are Chinese schools, pure and simple. Chinese books alone are used, and the mode of instruction is such as would be found in any native village school in China. But this has been too often noticed to need repetition.

21. The great aim in the supervision of these schools is to see that what is taught is taught methodically and well, that regularity, and especially punctuality, be attended to, and that cleanliness be not forgotten. It would perhaps be difficult to fix any precise amount of improvement from one year to another; but, on looking back over the last nine years, evidences of progress are not wanting. The Chinese are very slow to appreciate anything which is not precisely as they are accustomed to it, and in nothing is their conservatism so apparent as in education. Foreigners may know something of other matters, especially if they have reference to trade, but, in the matter of education, the dullest villager and the most ignorant boat-woman loudly proclaim their superiority, without the slightest suspicion of its being questioned. They know exactly what books their children are to read, and when and how they are to be read, the opinion of all foreigners to the contrary notwithstanding.

22. The school buildings are good and suitable, except those at Bowrington and Stanley. I had hoped to see these two reappear on the estimates. A new school-house at Stanley is greatly needed, but one at Bowrington is an absolute necessity, as has been pointed out on previous occasions. The number of scholars taught at the school during the year was 92. The highest number on the roll, on any one month, was 76, the lowest, 56, and 63 was the average for the year. Yet this large number has to be accommodated in the upper floor of a small, low-roofed, ill-ventilated Chinese house. I cannot forego this opportunity of once more calling the attention of the Government to the necessity of proceeding with the erection of the proposed school-house at Bowrington.

23. Three masters died in the course of the year—those at Sháu-ki Wán, at the Hak-ka school at Tang-lung Chau, and at the

Pún-ti school at Sai-ying P'ún. The last had been a Government schoolmaster for upwards of 10 years, and had always a very good school. There was one dismissal, that of the master at Sháu-ki Wán, the predecessor of the one that died. This has always been a wretched school as regards attendance. It was thought advisable, as the Hak-kas showed so little appreciation of it, to allow the Pún-tis a chance; but last year's experience does not inspire much confidence as to the benefit of the change. The schools at Aberdeen and Wong-nai Ch'ung are continual sources of disappointment, but they are good schools when compared with the one at Sháu-ki Wán.

24. The Pún-ti school at Tang-lung Chau, after being for many years at the head of the Village Schools, has lately been very unfortunate. For situation, the healthiest, apparently, of all the schools, no fewer than three masters have died within the short period since the new school was opened. Other masters of the school have had long periods of serious illness, and several of the scholars have died. As death after death occurs, the superstitious fears of the children are increased, and the withdrawals become more and more numerous. There is no apparent remedy for this, but a change for the better is greatly desiderated.

25. The schools in receipt of grants in aid are now 11 in number. Five were added during the year. These are the schools at Shek Shán, Hok Ün, Yau-ma Ti, Ma-t'au Ch'ung, and the Hak-ka school at T'o-kwa Wán. The whole may be arranged in the following order:—

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ap-li Chau. | 7. Yau-ma Ti. |
| 2. Ma-t'au Ts'ün. | 8. Hok Ün. |
| 3. T'o-kwa Wán (Hak-ka). | 9. Hung Hom. |
| 4. Little Hong Kong. | 10. T'o-kwa Wán. |
| 5. Ma-t'au Ch'ung. | 11. Shek Shán. |
| 6. Mong Kok. | |

26. Ap-li Chau, which in 1869 had simply a free site, received last year a grant in aid, the site being abandoned. This is by far the best of these schools, and if classified with the whole of the village schools, without regard to grant or otherwise, would stand ninth in order. The highest number of scholars on the roll was 41, and the lowest 30. The regular attendance averaged 31.

27. These schools differ from the ordinary village schools simply in this, that the villagers provide the school-house and select the master, who gets, or is supposed to get, one half of his salary in kind from the parents of his scholars, and the other half, amounting to 60 dollars a year, from Government.

28. It was thought, at the commencement, that this system of grants in aid would meet many difficulties, and might probably be extended in time to all the village schools. It enables the villagers to choose their own schoolmaster, a privilege which they consider peculiarly their own, and which they very reluctantly resign. It was thought, also, that by having to provide one-half the master's salary, they would be more anxious to have their children taught by way of a return for the expense incurred, and that they would be a check on

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the master,—a safeguard, I am sorry to say, not so unnecessary as it might be.

29. These hopes are a long way from their realization. Application for a grant in aid in too many cases means simply a source of revenue to the village. Government is a fair object for plunder. The want of a school is first discerned by a needy and placeless schoolmaster. The next step is a circuit of the village, full of promises of many good things to come. The next is a petition, composed by himself, but purporting to be from the villagers, setting forth the poverty of the village as extreme, the ignorance of the children as appalling, and the merits of the aspiring schoolmaster as unparalleled. The last step is a deputation for the presentation of the petition. All this is, outwardly, as it should be ; but, behind so much fair-seeming, there has been no lack of chicanery,—a hard-driven bargain on the part of the villagers for so much hard cash for the privilege of teaching their children, but probably taking the form of so much rent for the school-house, albeit the petition distinctly states that the village provides the school-house free.

30. When the master is appointed, everything goes well for several months, perhaps for the whole year ; but, by that time, envy has done its work. Another candidate appears, and larger promises are made or exacted. The petition is now to the effect that the master is as bad as he was formerly good, and that the new candidate is the only man who can repair the injury done to the school. When any reluctance is shown to comply with the request, it is pretty plainly intimated that if the new man is not accepted there will be no children at school next year.

31. Something of this nature is now going on at Little Hong Kong. The master there was the people's choice some years ago. It so happens that the Ti-po of the village has a son who aspires to the office of schoolmaster. Towards the end of the year, the Ti-po headed a deputation from the village and presented a petition against the present schoolmaster, and in favour of the aspiring one. The catalogue of the former's demerits was long, but not longer than that of the latter's merits. An attempt was made to convince the deputation that they were greatly to blame for not making the charges at the time the faults were alleged to have occurred, thus giving an opportunity of inquiring into them. They had no time to come and do so, was all their answer.

32. The schoolmaster was informed of what had been done, and probably taxed the villagers with their deceit, for they soon returned with a complete change of argument. The present master had enjoyed the salary for many years, and it was now time that another should have his turn of it. This was not to be listened to, and the deputation was plainly told so. Shortly after the Ti-po returned alone, and wanted to know definitely whether the new master would be accepted or not. When told that he certainly would not, the old man retorted so impudently that there should then be no scholars, that nothing but his gray hairs saved him from forcible extrusion. A scheme of a similar sort is understood to be maturing at Ma-t'au Ts'ün. As has been often said, the Government is the obliged party when the villagers condescend to let their children learn to read.

33. Attention is, as usual, called in Table VI. to the number of uneducated children in the Colony. This is done simply because it is well to have such a fact fairly presented and fairly looked at. If blame is attachable to anyone, it is to the parents, because they have only to show the slightest willingness to have their children taught, to secure attention to their case. It will probably be sufficiently evident from what has already been said, that if left to themselves the parents, in the majority of instances, have no great desire for the instruction of their children. If education were made obligatory one point would certainly be gained, but only one. The extreme poverty of many of the people in the villages and in boats would throw on the Government the onus of clothing and feeding, as well as educating, if any compulsory scheme were enacted.

34. To find an exact parallel to the state of things here we must go back a century or two in the history of our own country. Education there has not had its present extensive diffusion by any *fiat*. It has been a gradual, and a very gradual, process. We have the whole of that gradual process to go through in Hong Kong, although there is a tendency in most of us to forget or ignore that fact, and to imagine that the nineteenth century in England means the nineteenth century in Hong Kong, or, which comes to the same thing, that there is no reason why what is done in England should not have its exact counterpart here. It is argued, moreover, that education is *universal* in China, and that the poorest "Coolie" can read and write. This is one of the many fallacies which prevail on the subject of China and its people. It is only after a certain stage of material comfort has been reached that people can turn their thoughts to anything which is not material; and, until we have many more people among the poorer classes in Hong Kong who have not to go and earn a meal before they can eat it, it is almost folly to discuss comprehensive schemes of education for their benefit. Those who have been in the way of visiting the villages on the mainland say that the state of Hong Kong is not peculiar. Every village has its school, but only a fraction of the village children attend it. As the Chinese Government affords them no assistance, those who wish their children taught must take the whole burden of the schoolmaster's salary on themselves. This, in such poverty-stricken places, excludes the very poor, who are by far the majority; and if poor parents, by dint of much self-denial, should be able to send *one* of the family to school, it is all that they can possibly accomplish. The result is that, while ten or twelve may be found in the school, scores of children are to be seen on the hill sides tending the cattle.

35. Perhaps the greatest educational want in Hong Kong is that of a school, or schools, for European and American children of both sexes. In spite of the facilities afforded by St. Saviour's College and the Convent, many residents must have much difficulty in knowing how to get their children taught. The school need not be a free one. After the preliminary expenses of site and building, with which Government might fairly charge itself, the fees would go far to make the school self-supporting. It has been often suggested that the Colonial Chaplain might have such a school under his immediate care, but subject to Government supervision. Under whatever regu-

Hong Kong.

lations it might ultimately be placed, such a school is very much wanted, and it is matter of astonishment that parents have not long ago made a strenuous movement in this direction.

36. I have only, in conclusion, to add that I should be very glad if the state of the village schools were such as to enable me to pay them fewer than monthly visits. As the Central School advances, my time is more and more required in it. As each additional master has been added, more work has been rendered possible, and as long as the possible is not actual, a school is not in the state in which it ought to be.

I have, &c.,
 (Signed) FREDK. STEWART,
 Inspector of Government Schools.

The Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
 &c. &c. &c.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

(No. 43.) Colonial Secretary's Office, Hong Kong,
 March 6th, 1871.

The following Report of the Harbour Master, with returns annexed for the year 1870, is published for general information.

By command,
 J. GARDINER AUSTIN,
 Colonial Secretary.

Harbour Master's Office, Hong Kong,
 February 17, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward the following Annual returns from this Department for the year ending 31st of December, 1870, viz. :—

Nos. I. to XXI. not printed.

XXII. Comparative statement of the trade of the Colony from 1859 to 1870, inclusive.

Shipping.

2. In my last Report I was enabled to show an improved state of the trade of the Colony as compared with the preceding year.

3. It is satisfactory to find that the year under review exhibits a still further improvement, although the fortnightly French mail has ceased running; and the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company have not as yet increased the number of their vessels, but there seems every prospect that such will shortly be the case.

4. The gross increase of ships and tonnage on the year 1869 is 2,433 vessels, with a carrying capacity of 311,028 tons. Of this increase, there are 20,543 tons from Great Britain; 48,349 tons from India; 28,436 tons from Siam; 86,615 tons from Japan; 32,166 tons from Macao; and 109,594 tons from the ports in China and Formosa; whilst from other places there is a decrease.

5. Of the ships of different nations arriving at this port, it will be seen that there is a marked increase in those under the British flag,

consisting of 133 vessels and 161,520 tons. The number and tonnage of vessels under the French and American flags have also increased, whilst those under the North-German flag, in consequence of the war, have 87 vessels with 26,148 tons less than in 1869, and this large diminution is but the effect of a few months' hostilities.

6. To this Report I have appended a comparative statement of the trade of the Colony during the several years I have been connected with Hong Kong.

7. Some idea can be formed of the necessity for having increased the number of employes in the Department when it is seen that the total of arrivals and departures combined in 1870, is 62,572 vessels, and 5,864,514 tons, as against 2,179 vessels and 1,164,640 tons in 1859; or 2,771 per cent. more vessels' movements are recorded and 403 per cent. more tons are registered now than in the year brought forward, for purposes of comparison.

Junk Trade.

8. In my last Report on this subject, I attributed the then falling off of this trade to the effect of the Customs stations in the vicinity of the Colony. Whether it is that the officers in charge of them are less zealous in the performance of their duties, or that brighter days have dawned on the commercial prosperity of the Colony, I am unable to say, beyond that the latter would seem probable. But certain it is that trade in native bottoms has increased, and now stands at its highest since the "Harbour and Coasts Ordinance, 1866," was introduced.

9. The former opponents of this measure, it is to be hoped, will now rest satisfied that its anticipated baneful effects have not been realized, but that on the contrary, the general trade of the Colony, whether native or foreign, is in a highly healthy condition, and piracy, once so rife in these waters and their neighbourhood, is now seldom, if ever, heard of.

Emigration.

10. Under this heading there is a sensible decrease, amounting to 3,460 men, 1,549 women, 204 boys, and 80 girls.

11. The opposition evinced in the United States of America to the introduction of Chinese labour is having its effect, whether for good or evil remains to be seen.

12. Emigration under contract is at present prohibited at Hong Kong, except to British Possessions, but to these the restrictions and difficulties are so great, that only 70 Chinese left for Labuan during the year.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. G. THOMSETT, R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

Hon. J. Gardiner Austin,
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG. XXII.—RETURN of the ARRIVALS of VESSELS at this PORT from places outside the COLONY for the following YEARS.

Years.	British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.
1859 - - -	560	286,775	598	339,761	1,158	626,536
1860 * - - -	737	430,185	797	443,014	1,534	873,199
1861 - - -	552	318,384	707	389,812	1,259	658,196
1862 - - -	636	316,706	754	372,123	1,390	688,829
1863 - - -	816	472,125	1,006	422,799	1,822	894,924
1864 - - -	1,043	549,162	1,221	464,586	2,264	1,013,748
1865 - - -	1,115	636,285	1,091	426,974	2,206	1,063,259
1866 † - - -	856	522,825	1,040	427,031	1,896	949,856
1867 ‡ - - -	1,515	751,678	931	443,148	23,233	2,562,528
			20,787§	1,367,702		
1868 ‡ - - -	1,327	621,545	716	368,572	27,500	2,501,815
			25,457§	1,510,698		
1869 ‡ - - -	1,372	663,160	851	464,802	25,458	2,525,408
			23,235§	1,397,446		
1870 ‡ - - -	1,505	824,680	895	503,050	27,891	2,836,436
			25,491§	1,508,706		

* Includes transports during the war.

† Includes Canton and Macao steamers.

‡ Trade with India reduced.

§ Chinese junks.

H. G. THOMSETT, R.N.,
Harbour Master, &c.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 3.

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor BULWER to The EARL OF
KIMBERLEY.

(No. 10.)

MY LORD, Government House, Labuan, October 31, 1871.

1. I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870.

2. Some delay took place in the preparation of the returns, and they were unfortunately not completed in time to enable Governor Hennessy to make his Report upon them before his departure on the 2nd instant.

3. My recent arrival in the Colony prevents me from giving more than a brief summary of the principal points to be noticed in the returns

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BULWER,
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 3.

SUMMARY.

LABUAN.
Enclosure in
No. 3.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony amounted in 1870 to 7,158*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* It was mainly derived from *Excise Duties and Licences*, which were farmed out, on opium, spirits, tobacco, pawnbroking, ganja, and toddy. There was also a market farm.

These farms together yielded a total of 4,535*l.* during the year, showing an increase of 894*l.* over the revenue derived from farms during 1869.

A salt farm and a gambier farm which had existed in 1869 were abolished for 1870.

Another source of revenue was from the sale and rental of *Crown Lands*, which produced 409*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* To this may be added 159*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, being amount received for the rent of houses and of other property of the Government. Under the head of *Reimbursements in aid of Expenses*, a sum of 1,420*l.* was received from the Oriental Coal Company, and others for convict labour lent by the Government. A further sum of 220*l.* was received from the Company in repayment of police expenses.

The total revenue for 1870 (7,158*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*) exceeded that for 1869 by 1,630*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure for the year was 7,301*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* It was greater than was originally estimated in consequence of certain expenses incurred for the suitable entertainment of the Sultan of Borneo, who, attended by a numerous retinue, visited the Island, remaining there eight days, and was received with every attention and honour by the Governor and the authorities of the Colony. Some expenses, also unexpected at the commencement of the year, attended the organization of a police force intended to take the place of the military and garrison.

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed during the year.

Ordinance No. 1 amends the law for the naturalization of aliens.

Ordinance No. 2 extends the practice of trial by jury in Labuan, and amends the Ordinance regulating the General Court.

Hitherto, trial by jury only took place in cases of murder. The present Ordinance makes it lawful in any case, civil or criminal, for the Governor to direct the summoning of a jury to assist the Court.

Ordinance No. 3 amends the Ordinance regulating the sale of opium.

Ordinance No. 4 authorizes the appropriation of a supplementary sum for the public service of 1870.

Ordinance No. 5 authorizes the appropriation of the sum of 7,688*l.* 5*s.* for the public service of 1871.

LABUAN.*Imports and Exports.*

The total value of imports during the year is put at 122,982*l.*; that of exports for the same period at 61,218*l.*

The principal trade is with Singapore and the coast of Borneo. The chief articles of import for consumption in the Colony are *attaps*, rice, sugar, oil, salt, tobacco, padi, and provisions.

The chief articles of export, the produce of the Island or brought into the Island from Borneo for exportation, are *beeswax*, birds' nests, *camphor*, coals, gutta percha, India-rubber, hides, pearls, seed pearls, rattans, sago, tortoiseshell, and trepang.

Shipping.

Twenty-three vessels were entered at the ports of the Island for trade during the year, having a total of 8,917 tons. This return is given as exclusive of ships calling for coal, of men-of-war, and of native boats from the coast of Borneo and the Sooloo Seas, which numbered 1,082. It shows an increase over the return of the previous year, when 19 vessels, with a total of 6,972 tons, were entered for trade, besides 853 trading prahus from the coast.

Coal.

The quantity produced in 1870 is returned as 5,000 tons, against 7,155 tons in 1869.

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No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the
GOVERNMENT to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 16.)

MY LORD,

Mauritius, September 18, 1871.

PREVIOUS to the departure of the Governor to Seychelles, his Excellency particularly requested me to send home the Mauritius Blue Book for 1870, because it refers to a period for the greater part of which the Government of the Island was under my personal administration.

2. The year that is past has not been marked with many characteristics worthy of particular remark. An examination of the different returns will, I think, leave a tolerably favourable impression of the general condition of the Island, gradually recovering from the melancholy prostration of several previous years.

3. In the early part of the year, great excitement and general uneasiness was created by the proposed scheme of underground

drainage for Port Louis, projected by the eminent engineer, Mr. Bazalgette. Public meetings were held, and the result was, that a deputation waited upon me with a petition to the Queen, which I duly forwarded with my Despatch, No. 31, of 26th July, 1870.

4. The General Board of Health had entirely disapproved the project of covered drainage, as being liable to generate noxious gases in this tropical climate, also so subject to storm-floods; and subsequent experiments, for which I have to thank the Legislative Council for providing funds, proved to demonstration that the project of discharging the whole sewerage of the town into the sea at the mouth of the Grand River, would run the risk of accumulating a deleterious mass of putrid filth, and of creating and reproducing malaria, as no regular current exists there to carry away the sewerage which might thus be deposited along the surrounding seaboard.

5. My reason for this conclusion is formed not only from facts arrived at by experiments, but also from a consideration of the laws of nature in these seas.

6. No one can have studied the physical geography of the oceans, without being aware that the great ocean current of the Southern Indian seas sets with occasionally exceptional regularity from east to west, so much so, that between Mauritius and Seychelles, in the vicinity of the Island of Agalega, in calm weather the ripple of a strong westerly current is strikingly observable, running at the rate of four or five knots per hour. Mauritius might therefore be likened to a rock set in the midst of a river stream, against the east coast and round both ends of which the current sets, causing on the lee or opposite side of the Island, an eddy, in which the west coast waters are partially embayed, and so a regular current to carry any floating substances clear of the land upon that side rarely occurs near the shore, the variation being only caused by violent storms and floods or exceptional tides, which seldom rise here above two or three feet at strongest springs.

7. The question has therefore since remained almost in abeyance, but I am happy to state that through the energy of the Mayor, Mr. Ducray, the Corporation have undertaken improvements which will certainly prove beneficial.

8. I have also the satisfaction of stating, that with the use of convict labour the Executive was enabled to reclaim and cover with several feet of wholesome earth many acres of a formerly pestilent lagoon adjacent to the harbour, which was a fruitful hotbed of malaria. The best results have accrued from this work, not only to the crews of the ships in the port, but also to the military barracks of Fort George, and the neighbourhood in general, the reclaimed land being now planted with young trees.

9. The Caudan Basin, another area of the harbour, formerly deep enough to float ships of heavy tonnage, had through a series of years of neglect, become filled with sewerage so near the sea level as to dry at low water. It has now been excavated to the depth of 12 feet by dredging, under the able and skilful superintendence of the Harbour Master, Captain Wales, at a cost of no large amount; and several wrecks of large ships which had sunk there many years ago,

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one of them a vessel of at least 1,700 tons, together with about 100,000 tons of unwholesome sewage deposit, were entirely removed; a baneful source of malaria has thus been taken from that once populous locality.

10. The visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, in H.M.S. 'Galatea,' between the 24th of May and 3rd of June, created an amount of enthusiasm unparalleled in the history of this Island. All classes, from the highest to the lowest, vied with each other in doing honour to the first Prince of the Blood Royal of England who had ever set foot upon the shores of this remote dependency of the Crown.

11. The two spans of the railway viaduct that were blown off the supporting columns by the exceptionally violent hurricane of 1868 were, after being thoroughly repaired, successfully put in place in the month of June, under the able superintendence of Mr. Connal, the Surveyor-General, and Mr. Mosse, the general manager. The immediate direction of this important task was confided to Mr. Scott, the present manager.

12. Notwithstanding that these two spans had fallen from a height of 120 feet, they were so strongly constructed that they were found to have sustained no important damage by the fall. The temporary wooden viaduct that was put up immediately after the accident served to convey the whole of the traffic of the Midland Line, whilst the other was being repaired.

13. During the progress of the late war in Europe, a serious apprehension existed for several months that the postal communication carried by steamers of the Messageries Impériales might be interrupted or entirely discontinued, and as these ships are the only regular means of intercourse, the Island would in that case have been entirely isolated. An Indian Company tendered for the service, but funds were not forthcoming. However, happily, the French Company has continued hitherto with its usual regularity.

14. In consequence of there being a considerable number of both French and North-German merchant ships in port during the war, I detained for three months H.M.'s corvette 'Cossack,' to ensure a better observance of the neutrality laws. * * * *

15. As might be supposed, the effect of the war was to raise considerably the prices of everything of French production, and as many articles of household consumption and of clothing are imported from France, the result was felt by the inhabitants generally.

16. Though the yield of the sugar crop was comparatively small, being only about 90,000 tons, owing chiefly to the scanty rainfall of the previous season, yet in consequence of the war the quantity exported to France, and indeed to Australia, realized exceptionally high prices, and thus fairly remunerated the producers.

17. In the latter month of the year much apprehension and uneasiness occurred in the minds of the population owing to the outbreak of cholera in Madagascar, from whence all the cattle used in Mauritius are imported throughout the open season. A largely signed petition was presented to me praying that all further communication with Madagascar should cease during the existence of cholera. As this would have been a measure of such questionable

policy, involving as it would, on parallel grounds, similar restrictions regarding India (from whence all the rice for the 250,000 Coolies is imported), and other countries liable to constant epidemics, I resisted it, but entirely restored confidence by considerably strengthening and exceptionally adding to the rigour of the laws of quarantine.

18. Happily no case of cholera occurred, though a species of cholera existed, and a few cases were reported, some of which proved fatal.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

19. No new taxation was imposed during 1870.

Revenue and Expenditure.

20. The returns of revenue and expenditure show a surplus of revenue over expenditure, as was the case in 1869. It is true that this surplus was not very large, having been only 16,587*l*.

21. The revenue of 1870 exceeded that of 1869 by 13,000*l*.; and the expenditure of 1870 likewise exceeded that of 1869 by 16,000*l*.

22. The revenue has exceeded the amount at which it was estimated by 3,666*l*.

23. The increase of revenue has been principally in the item of Customs dues, which reached last year the highest figure yet attained. The increase was for duties on imports, there having been a slight falling off on exports on account of the short crop.

24. The new Stamp Law which came into force in 1869 has given a further increase of 3,000*l*. on the revenue of that year.

25. The mean revenue of the Island for the last ten years has been 576,596*l*., with which amount that of last year, viz. 608,166*l*., will compare favourably.

26. A comparison of the principal items of revenue with the mean of the last 10 years may prove interesting.

	1870.	Mean of last 10 years.
	£	£
Customs - - - - -	218,697	183,379
Taxes - - - - -	13,179	18,365
Licences and Permits - - -	154,256	167,623
Stamps - - - - -	12,734	8,126
Registration and Mortgage - -	20,171	26,868
Postage - - - - -	5,034	6,715
Harbour Dues - - - - -	20,683	27,790
Land - - - - -	3,336	11,857
Fines and Forfeitures - - -	14,416	17,094
Fees of Office - - - - -	8,926	9,396

27. It will be seen that with the exception of Customs and Stamps the revenue of 1870 was below the average of the last 10 years.

28. The expenditure of 1870 fell short of the amount at which it was estimated by 3,266*l*.

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29. The increase in the expenditure of 1870 over that of 1869 is to be accounted for partly by payment of interest on railway debentures that was not made in 1869, and partly by the interest and Sinking Fund investments on account of the loan of 100,000*l.* for hurricane damages, which was effected in 1869. Also by extra expenditure on works, buildings, and bridges.

30. The average total expenditure of this Colony for the last 10 years is 594,576*l.*, whilst the expenditure of 1870 was 591,579*l.*

31. Compared with the average for the last 10 years the details of the expenditure of 1870 are as follows :—

	1870.	Mean of last 10 years.
	£	£
Salaries - - - - -	206,864	205,123
Allowances and Contingencies - - -	28,206	29,744
Pensions - - - - -	14,198	13,700
Revenue Services - - - - -	11,241	11,647
Administration of Justice - - -	6,595	8,127
Ecclesiastical - - - - -	2,421	2,285
Education - - - - -	5,426	6,187
Hospitals - - - - -	4,721	10,205
Police and Gaols - - - - -	8,070	6,315
Rent - - - - -	5,149	5,168
Transport - - - - -	1,725	8,315
Mails - - - - -	5,773	28,688
Works and Buildings - - - - -	13,872	27,010
Roads and Bridges - - - - -	16,592	21,740
Interest - - - - -	10,596	13,504
Civil Stores - - - - -	24,762	32,823
Military - - - - -	27,848	36,956
Immigration - - - - -	12,374	18,543

32. The railway revenue and expenditure is not included in the above comparative statements, as the railways have not been open the 10 years. The results of last year show a very slight difference from those of the preceding year. There was a falling off in the quantity of sugar conveyed, occasioned by the falling off in the crop; but this was nearly counterbalanced by an increase in the quantity of grain, provisions for estates, and other merchandise that has been sent by rail. The working expenses have been still further reduced from 64·37 to 63·65 per cent.

Enclosure 1.
Report of
General
Manager of
Railways.

Local Revenues.

33. The revenue of the Municipal Corporation was nearly the same as in 1869, whilst the expenditure was reduced by 3,300*l.* A new issue of debentures to the extent of 30,000*l.* was effected at par, whilst old debts to the amount of 31,400*l.* were extinguished. The cash balance in hand at the end of 1870 was 6,000*l.* larger than at the beginning of the year. The position of the Corporation may therefore be estimated to be improved by 7,400*l.* since last year. The debt of the Corporation is stated to be 138,000*l.*, equal to about three and a half years' revenue.

84. The revenue and expenditure of the General Board of Health, as compared with 1869, were as follows :—

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	1869.	1870.
	£	£
Revenue - - -	8,770	10,153
Expenditure - -	7,668	8,210

85. The debt to Government still remains at 6,668*l.*, no portion of which was paid off last year. The new Sanitary Ordinance not having yet come into force, the revenue continues to be collected from the same sources and under the same system as before. A much larger revenue will it is hoped be received under the new law, the whole of which will probably be absorbed by sanitary improvements, which are much needed all over the Island.

86. The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Law Commission were respectively 28,059*l.*, and 27,310*l.*, leaving a small balance in favour of the Board. The loan from savings bank was repaid, and the outstanding debt of the Commission is 11,000*l.*

Military Expenditure.

87. The disbursements under this head for the internal protection of the Colony amounted, from 1st April, 1870, to 31st March, 1871, to about 60,115*l.*, deducting from which the amount contributed by the Colonial Government, viz. 30,739*l.*, would leave a balance of nearly 30,000*l.* to be borne by the Imperial Exchequer.

88. Upon laying before the Legislative Council the estimates for this year, I stated that in consequence of the reduction in the garrison of the Island, the sum estimated to be spent on the Australian allowance of 70*l.* for each man of the Artillery and Engineers, and 40*l.* for each member of the Staff and Line, was only 25,000*l.*

89. The majority of the Council, however, while not objecting to vote this sum, declined to engage the Colony to the payment of 45,000*l.*, as suggested by your Lordship's Despatch, No. 17, of 5th August, 1870, in the event of the garrison being increased to such an extent as to render the Colony liable at the above rates for such a sum.

40. The pro rata amount was therefore alone voted, and as they gave as a reason that they had no need of additional military protection, which, if at all, would be for Imperial and not internal interests, but that they had great need of more frequent postal communication with Europe, Asia, and Australia, which would require at least 20,000*l.* a year, and which already they could not afford, I am bound to admit there is a fair and reasonable ground of argument for the conclusion.

41. I may be permitted to say here, that under the present system, there is stationed in the Island a battery of Artillery, a weak company of Engineers, and a wing of an infantry regiment, whose other wing is in South Africa, with which there is no regular intercourse. In fact, as it is upwards of 1800 miles off, and the passage generally occupying more than a month in small comfortless trading brigs or

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schooners, with frequent intervals of three months and upwards, these wings are thus far more separated and estranged than if one was in England. This system injuriously affects the efficiency of a regiment. It might be remedied by employing instead, for Mauritius, a detachment of Royal Marines, who could be periodically and frequently interchanged with ships of war, if ordered to call here from the Indian, East Coast, and Cape stations. Men suffering from the pernicious effects of malaria would thus derive benefit from occasional change of climate, and the necessity would be avoided, as well as the expense, of such frequent invaliding and periodical relief of detachments of regiments; moreover ensuring, to the Island the occasional presence of a man-of-war, so very desirable for a remote Colony entirely relying upon countries beyond the seas for every description of subsistence, and the ordinary necessities of life, for its inhabitants of all classes.

42. I feel bound in candour, in writing under this head, to admit that a material portion of the expense incurred by the Imperial Government arises from the cost of Staff and Departments, which are sufficient for a force of at least 3,000 men, whereas between 400 and 500 alone compose the garrison, supposed to be sufficient for internal protection. In fact, if the European element of the excellent island police was augmented, a measure which I believe would be very popular, the protection of regular troops might be in some proportion reduced even more.

Public Works.

43. The expenditure on account of public works exceeded that of the previous year by 8000*l.*, though it fell far short of that of former years. The increased expenditure is to be explained by extensive repairs that had to be made to public buildings, as well as to bridges and roads that were damaged, and in some cases destroyed, by a heavy flood which occurred in April, 1870.

Establishments.

44. A further reduction of 2,000*l.* in the amount of salaries was effected in 1870, though if the allowances and contingencies be computed the total cost of establishments was nearly the same as for 1869.

45. The expenditure under this head for the last five years is here given in order to show the reductions that have gradually been effected.

	Salaries.	Allowances and Contingencies.	Total.
	£	£	£
1866 - - -	222,456	34,722	257,178
1867 - - -	215,762	28,607	244,369
1868 - - -	211,627	28,505	240,132
1869 - - -	208,883	25,721	234,604
1870 - - -	206,365	28,207	234,572

Population.

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46. The usual population returns show an increase of 5,709 over the total number of the resident population on 31st December, 1869; but the inaccuracy of the data on which these returns have hitherto been based, which has been alluded to on several previous occasions, has been signally demonstrated by the results of the census which was taken on the 10th April last. The total resident population on that date was 316,042, whilst the computations made on the basis of former years showed that on the 31st December last there were 328,633 souls, or 12,000 more than given by the census. Only the general results of the census are yet known, as shown in the annexed statement. A full report is being prepared by the Census Commissioner, who has carefully conducted his work, and will be forwarded when completed.

*Enclosure 2.
Statement
(Census 1871).*

47. Comparing, however, the results that are already known with the figures of previous years, it appears that the population of the Island has increased in the last decade by about 6,000, or 1·9 per cent., whilst in the previous decade the increase was 130,000, or 71·4 per cent.

48. The total number of births and deaths during the first decade was—

Births	-	-	-	-	71,599
Deaths	-	-	-	-	82,994

The arrivals and departures of Indian immigrants were—

Arrivals	-	-	-	-	188,020
Departures	-	-	-	-	41,168

49. During the second decade the births and deaths were—

Births	-	-	-	-	98,898
Deaths	-	-	-	-	138,016

whilst the arrivals and departures of immigrants were during the same period—

Arrivals	-	-	-	-	57,324
Departures	-	-	-	-	26,685

50. It will thus be seen that the increase of population during both decades is to be attributed to the introduction of Indian immigrants, the mortality having in each period exceeded the births.

51. The average annual death rate of the last ten years has been 43·35 per 1,000. If, however, the three years 1862, 1867, and 1868 be deducted, during the first of which epidemic cholera made its appearance, and during the two last, epidemic fever, the average annual death rate for the other seven years was 32·29 per 1,000, not a high rate, I believe, for a tropical climate. It must be remembered that the birth rate in this Colony is comparatively low, owing to the proportion of females to males being relatively small.

52. The immigration of Indian Coolies, without the existence of any legislative measure to assist the return of any portion of those who might be unable to pay their own passage at the expiration of their indentured services, still continues, and the Island is very rapidly

MORTALITY.

becoming immoderately overstocked with a superabundant population, which if increased according to the scale of 1861, and but for the pestilence which fastened itself on the Island in the latter part of the past ten years, would have been now similarly increased, must eventually produce bitter fruits which may well be considered nearly insurmountable for the sanitary action of any Government.

53. In illustration of the overcrowded state of the Island it will not be out of place here to state that the recent census gives a population of 448 per square mile, whilst that of Great Britain and Ireland was computed a short time ago at 253 per square mile, and that of Belgium, the most populous country in Europe, at 430 per square mile.

54. It is true that the health of the Island in general was better in 1870 than for several years before; but this may partly, and probably in no small degree, be accounted for by the fearful epidemic of three or four previous years, when the aged, the infirm, the weak, and the sickly were swept away. But writing as I do after more than half of this year has passed, statistics show that we must not rely upon that improvement as at all likely to be permanent. On the contrary, the month of July last is proved to have had a greater amount of mortality than that of any month for the previous two years; and in the eastern and southern districts of the Island the death rate was double in April, and in May treble that of the corresponding months of last year, or 179 against 60.

55. But it is not alone the actual amount of mortality that is so remarkable, because it also appears that on one estate 400 out of the 500 men employed were attacked with fever in April and May last, and on another estate all the men, on a third, 43 out of 216 were sick in hospital on the 17th May; and, therefore, though I trust there must be ground to hope the Colony may eventually reapproach in some measure its former prosperity, I am afraid it would be fallacious to expect that, what with its present over-populated state—to which thousands are annually added—and with a malarial fever that has already so terribly proved what malignant power it can assume always lurking in an endemic form throughout the Island, it will be ever likely again to resume its once celebrated salubrity.

56. The total mortality of the Island was 7,426 during the past year, the lowest figure that has been shown since 1861. In 1867 when the fever was at its height the mortality attained to 40,114; in 1868, 18,403; in 1869, 11,295; in 1870, 7,426.

57. These figures show a great improvement. It must be again remembered, however, that nearly all persons of weak and sickly constitutions had been swept off by the fever, and that comparatively very few of that class were left at the end of 1869. Hence the mortality was naturally much lower in 1870. It cannot, however, be expected to remain long at the same low rate.

58. The death rate during the last five years is given as follows:—

	Per cent.
1866 - - - -	8.24
1867 - - - -	10.99
1868 - - - -	5.29
1869 - - - -	3.49
1870 - - - -	2.25

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59. Although these rates cannot be accurate, as one of the data on which they have been calculated, the amount of the population, is shown to have been wrongly estimated, yet they are sufficiently accurate to compare the mortality of one year with that of another.

60. The Officer of the Civil Status in his Annual Report attributes 44·8 per cent. of the total mortality to fever. I may, however, hazard the opinion that fever was not the sole cause of death in the whole of the cases which are attributed to it. It would seem not only to weaken and predispose the constitution to various diseases, but also to have a disposition to step in with other cases of sickness, possibly themselves of a sufficiently serious nature to cause death, but the symptoms of fever supplementing in such cases those of the original disease, the deaths are returned as occasioned by fever, which was no doubt the mortal cause.

*Enclosure 3.
Report of
Officer of Civil
Status.*

61. The number of suicides was 66 as against 90 in the previous year.

62. The births in 1870 showed an excess of 3,731 over the deaths, and of 1,178 over the previous year. The total number of births for each of the last five years has been—

1866	-	-	-	12,134
1867	-	-	-	10,568
1868	-	-	-	9,436
1869	-	-	-	9,979
1870	-	-	-	11,157

63. Immigration from India during last year was on a larger scale than during 1869. The arrivals were 4,076 against 2,842 departures.

64. The proportion of females to every 100 males in this class of the population has risen from 48·88 in 1869 to 50·15 in 1870. The proportion of females to every 100 males in the total population was 63·39 in 1870.

65. The Report of the Protector of Immigrants appears to me to be satisfactory. He states that the mortality on sugar estates had fallen from 45·1 per 1000 in 1868, 30·2 in 1869, to 18·9 in 1870; that the number of deserters had diminished; that out of 76,921 men who engaged during the year, 31,461 changed masters, and 45,460 were re-engaged on the estates where they had been already employed; that 65,193 men were employed by owners of sugar estates, and 5,050 with job-contractors, and that the number of convictions pronounced against both masters and servants by the Stipendiary Magistrates had very considerably reduced, having been—

*Enclosure 4.
Report of
Protector.*

		Masters.		Servants.
In 1868	-	-	-	7,733
" 1869	-	-	-	3,936
" 1870	-	-	-	2,507
				14,875
				8,152
				4,954

66. The sums deposited in the Savings Bank by Indians were 21,716*l.*; the amount standing to their credit at the bank at the end of the year was 70,476*l.*, whilst the remittances made to India through the Immigration Office was 2,052*l.*

*Enclosure 5.
Report of
Manager of
Savings Bank.*

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Education.

67. The average number of pupils attending the Royal College in 1870 was 175, about 20 more than in 1869. The scheme introduced by the Rector about two years and a half ago, under which secondary instruction was to be entrusted to private establishments, associated with the College, the Directors of which undertook to follow the course of education adopted at this institution, in order that their pupils might be prepared to enter the same at a later period, has failed, owing to want of co-operation on the part of these establishments. A branch of the Royal College has, in consequence, been recently opened at Curepipe, in the centre of the Island and on the line of railway, where the classes will follow precisely the same studies as those at the parent establishment in Port Louis, whilst the parallel progress of the two establishments will be secured by monthly examinations, conducted by professors of the Royal College. A large accession of pupils is anticipated from the adoption of this step, as the master of one of the private schools has closed his establishment and entered the Government service as a professor. The greater part of his pupils will probably follow him to the Government school at Curepipe. The establishment of this rural branch of the College has met with the hearty approval of the public.

68. In the Government schools the number of pupils borne on the rolls in 1870 shows an increase of 11 per cent. over the previous year. The attendance in the Denominational schools had, on the other hand, slightly fallen off, partly owing to the closing of two of these schools. The Report of the Superintendent of Government Schools will be found amongst the annexures.

Enclosure 6.
Report of Superintendent
of Government
Schools.

Administration of Justice.

69. The lamented death of the late Procureur and Advocate General, Jules Colin, which occurred in the month of July, led me, in providing a successor, who, from long experience of the Colony and eminent legal attainments, would probably prove the most perfectly qualified, to offer the vacant office to Mr. Justice Colin, a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, who readily accepted it.

70. I was therefore enabled to secure not only an able and talented adviser for the Government, but to provide for the promotion of Mr. Gorrie, the Substitute Procureur-General and Ministère Publique, in accordance with your Lordship's Despatch, No. 15, of 4th August, 1870.

71. By these arrangements, moreover, the Colony was saved from being saddled with the expense of a fourth Puisne Judge, which had been advocated by petition from a portion of the legal profession, on the ground of principle, but considered unnecessary, as the three Judges of the Supreme Court had not more work than they could accomplish with promptitude and despatch.

72. The usual returns from the Judges of civil and criminal cases dealt with by the Supreme Court are annexed. They do not call for any remarks.

Enclosure 7.
Return of
civil and criminal
cases.

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Enclosure 8.
Procureur-
General's Re-
port on crime.

73. The Report of the Procureur-General on crime shows that the number, both of cases and of prisoners tried before the assizes in 1870, was, as in 1869, comparatively small. The decrease is attributed to the same cause as in 1869—viz. to the passing of Ordinance No. 11 of 1869, by which a wider jurisdiction was given to the district magistrates in criminal matters, which enabled them to try certain cases, of which formerly they could not have taken cognizance, and under which Ordinance, also, power was given to the Procureur-General to authorize such magistrates to entertain certain other charges.

74. Seven persons were found guilty of murder and attempt to murder, and ten of manslaughter. Of the latter six were charged with the graver crime, and the evidence disclosed at their trials was, in the opinion of the Procureur-General, sufficient to fully bear out the charge. Great reluctance, however, exists in the minds of jurors in this Colony to bring in verdicts that would carry with them capital punishment.

75. Only two prisoners were executed, the sentences of the others being commuted to twenty years' hard labour.

*Gaols and Prisoners.**

* Not printed.

76. The Returns of Gaols and Prisoners, and the Report of the Chief Medical Officer thereon, are satisfactory.

77. The total number of prisoners committed to all gaols was—in 1869, 26,489 males, and 359 females; 1870, 19,417 males, and 400 females.

78. The average daily strength of all prisons during the last five years indicates, also, a steady decline in the number, as will be seen by the following figures:—

1866	-	-	-	1,963
1867	-	-	-	1,729
1868	-	-	-	1,681
1869	-	-	-	1,651
1870	-	-	-	1,588

79. The Chief Medical Officer reports having frequently inspected the prisons and prison hospitals during the year, and having found them clean and in good order.

80. The proportion of sick per thousand of prisoners was 139·4 in 1870 against 160·3 in 1869, and 222·9 in 1868, whilst the death rate shows a still more marked improvement, as will be seen by comparing the figures of the last five years:—

1866	-	-	-	3·44	per 1,000
1867 (epidemic fever)	-	-	-	12·14	"
1868	-	-	-	6·06	"
1869	-	-	-	6·28	"
1870	-	-	-	2·19	"

Poor Law Commission.

81. The President of the Poor Law Commission has sent in a Report on the working of the Commission for the six months ending 31st December last. This Report is intended to serve as a con-

Enclosure 9.
Report of Poor
Law Commis-
sion.

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necting link between the last annual Report, which embraced the period between 30th June, 1869, and 30th June, 1870, and the next one, which will be made for the year 1871, in order the better to admit of comparing with the estimates that are prepared for the current year, as well as to correspond as to period with the other annual Reports that are made by different heads of departments. The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Law Commission has already been alluded to in this Despatch. The Report does not seem to call for any further observation from me.

Juvenile Reformatory.

82. This establishment is conducted with great attention under the control of the Inspector-General of Police, who has reduced a large space of waste land into a highly cultivated and ornamental garden and farm, which supplies crops of vegetables not only amply sufficient for the wants of the lads in the establishment, but also leaves a considerable surplus for sale.

83. The lads are educated, taught industrial trades, and show much quickness and aptitude in their acquirement, and by such means, and the strict observance of discipline and cleanliness, they become in general very useful and in much request.

84. The reformatory may, indeed, in great measure be thus considered self-supporting.

85. I regret to have to add that the health of this institution still continues unsatisfactory, but the causes are not attributed by the Medical Officer to the locality, or to any defects of system, but to the worn-out, debilitated state in which many of the inmates were when they were brought there. Repeated attacks of malarious fever, coupled with privation of food and exposure, were the causes of this debilitated state, and the result was shown in malignant ulcers, which in many instances—particularly during the first months of the present year, during the hot weather—baffled, for a time, all the skill and care of the surgeon, and in most instances ended fatally.

Legislation.

86. 15 Ordinances and 41 Proclamations have been passed during the year.

87. The Procureur-General's Report on the legislation of the past year will supply general details of the year's work in this respect.

88. The most important measure passed during 1870 was Ordinance No. 11, the object of which was to provide a broad scheme for the proper administration of the laws which relate to the public health, and to create a fund for the purpose of carrying out the necessary works in connection therewith.

89. This Ordinance encountered great opposition in some of its details before the Council would decide upon passing it. Many of the members of that body united in condemning certain provisions, whilst they could not come to any understanding as to what other provisions should be adopted in place of those objected to.

90. The Ordinance has not, however, met with the approval of the Home Government, and certain modifications, principally relating to extreme powers which had been vested in the General Board of

Enclosure 10.
Procureur-
General's
Report on
Legislation.

Health, as well as in the scheme of taxation under which the necessary funds are to be provided, have been directed to be introduced before it is put in force. It is doubtful how far these amendments will meet with the support of the Council, and some time may still elapse before any benefit can be derived from the new law.

91. A law was also brought before Council, and passed in pursuance of directions received from the Secretary of State, to make provision for replacing Judges of the Supreme Court whenever by lawful recusation of any of them the legal quorum of Judges could not be obtained.

Imports and Exports.

92. The value of imports and exports (deducting specie) is given by the Blue Book as follows :—

	Imports.		Exports.
1869 - -	1,619,906	-	2,601,657
1870 - -	1,935,993	-	2,049,988

The true value of exports, however, may be put down at a figure considerably higher, as the sugar has been estimated by the Customs at about 18s. per cwt., whereas a statement carefully prepared by a sugar broker showing the monthly rates at which the different qualities of sugar were disposed of, gives an average of about 24s. 11d. per cwt. on the whole quantity exported, or 2,500,000l., instead of 1,845,203l., as given by the Blue Book.

93. The true value of the sugar exported during the last five years is given below, together with the quantities exported :—

	Tons.	Value.	Average price per cwt.
		£	s. d.
1866 - -	124,000	2,650,539	18 6
1867 - -	100,000	2,156,950	18 4
1868 - -	99,000	2,143,166	21 10
1869 - -	107,000	2,599,815	22 10
1870 - -	102,000	2,549,881	24 11

94. It will be seen by this statement that the prices obtained for our produce have been gradually increasing, and attained a very fair rate last year.

95. I believe that at the same time the misfortunes which the Colony has had to encounter during the last few years have had the effect of introducing a wholesome amount of economy in the working of sugar estates, and that the costs of production of our staple have materially diminished.

96. I stated in my Report of last year that in consequence of the long and severe drought that had prevailed in the early part of the year the coming crop was expected to be only 100,000 tons. I regret to state that it only reached 90,000 tons. It must be remembered that in speaking of the crop, which begins in July, it is customary to estimate the quantity of sugar shipped from 1st August to the 31st July of the following years. The figures given in the preceding paragraph refer not to the crop, but to the exports

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—

of the year. The crop of 1868-9 was 78,000 tons, that of 1869-70 132,000 tons, that of 1870-71 was 90,000 tons, and the crop just commenced is estimated at from 120,000 to 130,000 tons.

97. Upon the whole I think I may fairly say that the condition of the Colony at the close of 1870, though far from equalling that of former prosperous days, shows nevertheless a considerable improvement over the four preceding years. The public health certainly suffered less from the endemic fever, and the sugar crop, upon which, after all, the commercial prosperity of the Island entirely depends, gave prospects of affording a fair average.

98. The financial condition of the Colony was also in a more satisfactory state than for several previous years, and gives expectation of being able again to secure the advantage of reserve balances, which fell off owing to the cost of constructing the railways and other exceptional causes.

99. It is true that the welfare of this community depends solely and entirely upon the cultivation of our single staple article of valuable produce. A bad sugar crop brings the Island for the time, apparently, to the verge of ruin, but so remunerative is a good one that public confidence rallies with singular elasticity. To guard against such possible failures, financial as well as social, must be always a difficult task for any Government in a country alternately suffering from destructive and dangerous hurricanes, from drought, from cane disease, and from pestilence.

100. A reserve balance to meet such recurring misfortunes and emergencies would no doubt in some degree assist in tiding over a bad year. And it must be hoped that the reductions in expenditure which are being gradually made, and the improved financial prospects of the Colony may at no distant time render it possible to amass such a necessary resource.

101. Of late years much of the soil that was formerly very productive in its sugar yield, has become, to the extent of many thousand acres, waste and unemployed. This applies chiefly to the low-lying lands on the northern and western districts of the Island; but whether it occurs from exhaustion of the soil, from improvident working of the estates, from scarcity of rain, or from these causes combined, may be a question open to discussion.

102. It is a strange phenomenon that the rainfall for several years past, though not on the whole much less in amount than formerly, is now confined in great measure to particular localities and the higher districts of the Island, instead of being general all over it as in former years, thus leaving many districts either entirely without, or with an insufficient supply for cane cultivation.

103. To replace the land thus rendered unproductive, hundreds of acres of the primeval forest have been recklessly cleared away; and by many it is believed that from that cause the climate of the Island has been injuriously affected, the temperature increased, and the humidity of the soil therefore correspondingly lessened.

104. Public opinion is so impressed that this is caused by clearing away of forest for sugar cultivation all over the Island, that an Ordinance was prepared early last year to amend the laws relating to the woods and forests and the rivers of the Colony; but the conditions were so generally disapproved by the Chamber of Agriculture and

the public, that a new one has been now brought under consideration to acquire land for replantation, and replacing portions of forest land, which appears to be more favourably looked upon.

105. I am, however, of opinion that to render the effects of such an Ordinance replete with permanent benefit and accuracy, a detailed survey of the Island is desirable, noting carefully all mountains, defining bases where possible, and where not, then taking the top of the mountain or accessible ridge rather as a point of description more easily defined than the base, showing the boundaries of estates, Government property, waste land, villages, settlements of Indian squatters, and so forth.

106. No work of that nature exists; the only tolerable map of the Island is taken from an old French manuscript imperfectly plotted in from a tolerably accurate triangulation made by Abbé La Caille during the French occupation, but deficient in fixed points.

107. No doubt a considerable portion of the natural forest still exists, notwithstanding the improvident rapidity with which of late years it is being annually demolished to seek virgin soil for the growth of canes; but the greater part of what now remains stands at such a high elevation, that its lower temperature and damp would render the land nearly useless for such purposes.

108. It has been advanced by some, and quite lately, to myself, though by strangers to the Island, that these waste lands might be usefully employed for the cultivation of cotton, coffee, spices, and such products; but anyone familiar with the tremendous hurricanes and the tropical deluges with which Mauritius is occasionally visited, must accept such theories as simply chimerical.

109. Consequent upon the gradual exhaustion of the land from long years' succession, with but little and exceptional variation on some estates, of sugar crops, it has been found necessary to resort to manures, to a somewhat immoderate degree, of guano as well as of the Inodore manufacture; and to this some attribute the partial deterioration of several varieties of sugar canes; but as many new descriptions have been imported from New Caledonia and other countries, it is hoped they may shortly prove productive with an improved system of agriculture.

110. But a serious consideration, from the effect of the land being thus saturated with an uninterrupted and increasing quantity of manure, arises from the fact that when soaked with water it festers under a tropical and periodically vertical sun, and especially from the higher plateaux after heavy rains, by a process of filtration; but more perhaps by the flow of surface streams, the ammoniacal essence of these substances is conducted into the rivers from whence the drinking water of the population is entirely derived, unimpeded, as might have been the case, by the roots of forest trees, by spongy mosses, and the luxuriant undergrowth.

111. Add to this, a further pollution of drinking water is caused by a superabundant Indian and coloured population of uncleanly habits, who have been permitted to locate themselves * * *

with little attention to regularity or cleanliness. Twelve months and a day undisturbed possession of site, without payment of rent, gives

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right of tenure, without an expensive ejectment process before the Supreme Court. This has been taken advantage of by many who, having completed their indenture of service, are either unable or disinclined to return to their native country; and the system has existed for many years, is now difficult if even possible soon to remedy, and is fraught with future evil consequences to the public health.

112. It may also be noted that these rivers, the sole source of drinking water for the population, are also the general lavatories for every purpose of all classes, and it may then easily be conceived what organic matter and impurities must be imbibed in this country, where wells are hardly known, how injuriously the public health must be affected; nor can it be wondered at why the people stand in such deadly terror of cholera and other epidemic diseases.

113. To remedy this evil condition of things in an overcrowded tropical country, where, year after year and for a long series of years, though much has been said and written, but little has been really practically effected for good, would be now indeed a question of almost insurmountable difficulty. A vast reduction in the Indian population, numbers of whom have acquired a right of tenure by squatting, would perhaps be the plainest solution if it were practicable.

114. I am also persuaded that the position of this Colony has been, and will be still more affected in an important degree by the opening of the Suez Canal route, and the enormous use now made of steam power in the carrying trade of the Eastern Seas. That shorter, quicker, and safer route to the East must before long, with few exceptions, supersede the long and tedious track round the stormy Cape; and though Mauritius with its sheltered harbour and excellent graving docks, may possibly continue a refuge for some few ships to repair damage, it must be remembered that it has now a formidable rival in the splendid new breakwater and docks of Table Bay, and that it is no longer on the high road of the Eastern World, nor can it ever again become the important port of call of former years, lying lonely and isolated in the Indian Ocean, out of the track of all steamers passing by the future great highway of the Red Sea, through the Gulf of Aden towards Australia, the Bay of Bengal, or to the China Seas, through the Straits of Malacca or of Sunda.

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. SELBY SMYTH,
Major-General.

Enclosure 1
in No. 4.

(No. 116.)

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

SIR,

Mauritius Railways, General Manager's Office,
Port Louis, March 1, 1871.

Financial Report for 1870.

I have the honour to forward enclosed, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the usual returns* showing the receipts and expenditure of this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1870, as follows:—

* These
Returns are
not printed.

- No. 1. A summary of traffic similar to that forwarded to the Board of Trade by Railway Companies in England, and presented annually to Parliament.
- No. 2. A comparative statement of traffic for the years 1869 and 1870.
- No. 3. Return of the receipts and expenditure for 1869 and 1870 as required by Acts 31 and 32 Victoria, cap. 119.
2. Referring to return No. 2, I would beg to call attention to the following points.

NORTH LINE.

Passenger Traffic.

3. The passenger traffic of this line, I regret to say, still shows a falling off as compared with previous years, the number of passengers, exclusive of season-ticket holders, conveyed in 1870, having been 342,102 as against 349,010 in 1869, or a decrease of 6,908.

4. This decrease may probably arise from many of the inhabitants who formerly resided in the proximity of the North Line stations having removed to the higher portions of the Island which the Midland Line traverses. This supposition appears to be borne out by the fact that there has been a large increase of passengers on the Midland Line during the past year.

5. The receipts from passengers on the North Line have in like manner decreased, the actual figures being 17,595*l.* in 1870 as compared with 17,720*l.* in 1869, or a decrease of 125*l.*

6. The receipts obtained from parcels, carriages, horses, dogs, mails, and miscellaneous items, were 1,612*l.* in 1870 as against 1,626*l.* in 1869, and the total passenger receipts in 1870 were 19,207*l.* as compared with 19,346*l.* in 1869, or a difference in favour of the previous year of 139*l.*

Goods Traffic, N. L.

7. Owing to the smallness of the sugar crop the tonnage of goods has fallen off during the past year, there having been a reduction of 9,057 tons of sugar, and an increase of 1,991 tons of general merchandise carried, as compared with the previous year, leaving a balance of 7,066 tons in favour of 1869.

8. The goods receipts have naturally followed the falling off in tonnage, the revenue in 1870 having been 17,340*l.* as against 18,975*l.* in 1869, or a decrease of 1,635*l.*

9. The total revenue on this line for 1870 has fallen from 38,321*l.* in 1869 to 36,547*l.*, or a decrease of 1,774*l.*

10. The receipts per railway mile per annum have declined from 1,236*l.* in 1869 to 1,179*l.* in 1870, and the receipts per train mile from 87·82 to 87·50.

MIDLAND LINE.

Passenger Traffic.

11. The passenger traffic on the Midland Line has increased largely during the past year, the number conveyed being 485,583 in 1870 as compared with 430,964 in 1869, or an augmentation of 54,619 passengers.

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12. Increased facilities have been extended to the public by attaching a composite carriage of three classes to goods trains.

13. The receipts from passengers have risen from 32,637*l.* in 1869 to 35,080*l.* in 1870, or an increase of 2,443*l.*, and there has been an advance of 401*l.* in favour of 1870 on the other items of passenger traffic, making the total receipts under this head 37,744*l.* as compared with 34,900*l.* in 1869, or an augmentation of 2,844*l.*

Goods Traffic, M. L.

14. From the same cause adverted to under this head on the North Line, there has been a falling off in the sugar traffic in 1870 as compared with the previous year, the actual tonnage being 20,219 in 1870 against 28,912 in 1869, or a decrease of 8,693 tons. This decrease has, however, been more than compensated by an increase of 9,666 tons of general merchandise conveyed during the past year, the total number of tons of this description of traffic having risen from 35,375 in 1869 to 45,041 in 1870, thus leaving a balance of 973 tons of goods conveyed in favour of the past year. The total tonnage conveyed was 65,260 in 1870 and 64,287 in 1869.

15. The goods receipts have not, I regret to say, kept pace with the increased tonnage, owing to the fact that the freight for general merchandise (or traffic from Port Louis) is much lower than the tariff charged on sugar from the estates to town, the revenue under this head having fallen from 22,846*l.* in 1869 to 22,192*l.* in 1870, or a decrease of 654*l.*

16. The total revenue on the Midland Line has risen from 57,746*l.* in 1869 to 59,936*l.* in 1870, being an increase of 2,190*l.* The receipts per railway mile per annum have increased from 1,649*l.* in 1869 to 1,712*l.* for the past year, and the receipts per train mile have risen from 89·00 in 1869 to 810·54 in 1870.

Summary of both Lines.

17. The statement under review shows the total increase or decrease of each item of traffic, so that it is not necessary to go into these in detail; taking the totals, however, the return shows that during 1870 the number of passengers conveyed was 827,685 as against 779,974 in 1869, and that the total receipts from passenger traffic were, during the same periods, 56,951*l.* and 54,246*l.* respectively.

18. Dealing in the same manner with the goods traffic, it appears that 120,128 tons have been conveyed in 1870 as against 126,281 tons in 1869, giving a revenue of 39,532*l.* in the former year as compared with 41,821*l.* in the latter. The total revenue from all sources of traffic has increased from 96,067*l.* in 1869 to 96,483*l.* in 1870.

19. The receipts per railway mile per annum have risen from 1,455*l.* in 1869 to 1,462*l.* in 1870, and the receipts per train mile were 89·14 in 1870 as against 88·49 in 1869.

20. The average mileage per passenger is the same as last year, while the average receipt per passenger has fallen off 1·55 per cent.

(owing to a decrease in the number of 1st and 2nd class passengers); there is also a slight decrease in the receipt per ton of goods carried in 1870, consequent on the falling off in the tonnage of sugar conveyed.

Train Mileage.

21. Whilst the traffic on the whole has increased during 1870, the train mileage has decreased from 226,303 miles in 1869 to 211,214 miles in 1870, or a decrease of 15,089 miles, and this of course accounts for the receipts per train mile being higher in 1870 than in 1869.

Expenditure.

22. The same return (No. 2) shows the expenditure in 1869 and 1870, the principal items of which are as follows:—

23. The expenditure on account of maintenance of way has increased from 11,503*l.* in 1869 to 12,646*l.* in 1870, caused by relaying portions of the Midland Line with steel rails, and other indispensable repairs.

24. The steel rails are answering our expectations. Engines furnished with steel tyres—as all upon the Midland Line are—do not suffer any diminution of their tractive force in ascending, or the trains display any tendency to accelerate their speed in descending, the gradients upon which steel rails have been laid down. As this coincides with the more lengthened experience obtained upon the Ceylon Railway, I have no hesitation in advising the gradual substitution of steel for iron rails upon the Midland Line. We are fitting upon each Midland engine, as speedily as possible, the Le Chatelier or counter-pressure break, which has already proved itself to be a valuable auxiliary.

25. In June last the Grand River temporary wooden bridge was successfully replaced by the rebuilt iron girders after a few days' interruption of the traffic.

26. The locomotive expenses have decreased from 25,292*l.* in 1869 to 23,528*l.* in 1870, in consequence of the amount expended for fuel and oil during the past year having been reduced, partly attributable to several cargoes of coals having been obtained at a low price, and partly to a reduced consumption per engine mile run.

27. The expenditure for repairs of carriages and waggons has increased from 3,553*l.* in 1869 to 3,721*l.* during the past year, caused principally by the waggon stock requiring more extensive repairs owing to increasing age, and by three ordinary composite and three third-class carriages having been converted into treble composite carriages; also by the building of one double-story carriage.

28. There has been an increase of 59*l.* in the traffic expenses for 1870 as compared with 1869, while the general charges have decreased from 4,898*l.* in the latter year to 4,056*l.* in the former. The special expenditure has also been reduced from 2,291*l.* in 1869 to 956*l.* in 1870.

29. An item for level crossings appears for the first time in this return, the expenditure on which has amounted to 1,959*l.* during the

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past year. To this heading is charged the wages of all gatemen at crossings and the expense of erecting huts for the same.

80. The total expenditure for 1870 was 61,407*l.* as compared with 61,839*l.* in 1869, or a decrease of 432*l.*

31. It is gratifying to remark that the total revenue has exceeded the estimated revenue by 1,683*l.*, and that the actual expenditure is less than that estimated by 8,743*l.* (this figure is obtained by taking credit for the 11,000*l.* voted for renewals of permanent way, in addition to the amount provided in the estimates).

32. The net profit for the year 1870 was 35,076*l.* as against 34,228*l.* in 1869, or an increase of 848*l.*, and is divided as follows :—

			£
North Line	-	-	11,800
Midland Line	-	-	23,276
			<hr/>
Total	-	-	£35,076
			<hr/>

Accidents.

33. On October 1st a slight collision occurred at the Pailles Station between the 1.30 P.M. down mixed train and the 10.15 A.M. up goods train, through the carelessness of the pointsman turning the down train into the siding where the goods train was, when two or three passengers received slight contusions; with this single exception, I am happy to say, no passengers have received any injuries.

34. The train service has, I believe, been performed with regularity. The permanent way and works and the rolling stock have been well maintained.

35. It is gratifying to learn that the health of the staff has considerably improved during the past year, and that the mortality has decreased. Dr. Riccard has continued to display the same kind interest in the welfare of the staff that has invariably distinguished him.

36. It affords me great pleasure in testifying to the very efficient and cordial assistance that I have received from the heads of each branch of the service; without this, I need not remark that it would have been almost impossible for me to have carried on the combined duties of the general manager and locomotive engineer since July last.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) W. H. SCOTT,
Acting Manager.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

CENSUS, 1871.

STATEMENT showing the total RESIDENT and total POPULATION of MAURITIUS, comprising that of the outlying ISLANDS, the MILITARY in the COLONY, and the SHIPPING, HOME and FOREIGN, in HARBOUR, and distinguishing the POPULATION of each DISTRICT of the ISLAND. According to the CENSUSES of 1846, 1861, 1861, and 1871.

Districts.	1846.	1861.	1861.	1871.	Centennial Increase or Decrease.					
					From 1846 to 1861.		From 1861 to 1871.		From 1861 to 1871.	
					Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Port Louis -	45,212	49,909	74,128	68,015	10·8	—	48·5	—	—	14·9
Pamplemousses -	28,815	32,036	53,598	42,978	11·1	—	67·3	—	—	19·8
Rivière du Rempart -	15,061	16,650	19,331	20,242	6·4	—	20·5	—	4·7	—
Flacq -	19,182	24,188	41,468	49,489	26·0	—	71·4	—	19·3	—
Grand Port -	16,756	19,082	37,207	44,226	13·8	—	94·9	—	18·8	—
Savanne -	9,160	9,871	21,026	27,443	7·7	—	113·0	—	30·5	—
Black River -	6,831	10,691	17,171	11,997	47·7	—	70·1	—	—	30·1
Plaines Wilhems -	12,784	13,893	28,020	35,147	8·6	—	101·6	—	25·4	—
Moka -	4,661	5,725	17,704	21,296	22·8	—	209·2	—	19·9	—
Flat, Gabriel, and Fourquet Islands -	—	—	99	44	—	—	—	—	—	55·5
Shipping of the Colony -	—	—	298	215	—	—	—	—	—	27·8
Total resident population -	158,462	180,823	310,050	316,042	14·1	—	71·4	—	1·9	—
Military -	1,801	1,594	2,350	706	—	15·3	54·1	—	—	69·9
Shipping not belonging to the Colony -	826	1,159	1,062	321	40·3	—	—	8·3	—	69·7
Total population -	161,089	183,506	313,462	317,069	13·9	—	70·8	—	1·1	—

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in No. 4.

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Enclosure 3
in No. 4.

Enclosure 3 in No. 4.

REPORT of the ACTING OFFICER of the CIVIL STATUS of PORT
LOUIS, for the year 1870.*Population.*

The estimated resident population of Mauritius on the 31st December, 1870, was 328,633, being an increase of 5,709 on that of the preceding year. The general population numbered 64,608 males and 53,389 females; the Indian, 140,283 males and 70,353 females. The proportion of males in the former class is 54·75 per cent., in the latter, 66·59.

The natural increase of a population is represented by the excess of births over deaths, and in 1870 the population of Mauritius gained 3,731 by such excess; equal to an increase of rather more than 10 per day. The excess of births in the general population was 1,532; in the Indian, 2,199. In 1869 the excess of births in the general population was only 352, and in the Indian the deaths exceeded the births by 1,668.

The birth and death rates are calculated on the mean population of the year, which is estimated at 325,304, viz. general population, 64,027 males and 52,879 females; Indian, 139,412 males and 68,986 females: the mean population of Port Louis having been estimated at 65,000.

Marriages.

The total number of marriages registered in the year was 702, of which 461 appertained to the general population and 241 to the Indian. These figures, however, do not give the sum total of all the marriages contracted in the year. A small section of the community, chiefly European, are satisfied with the religious ceremony of marriage, after civil publication of the banns, and such marriages, although equally valid, are not registered in the Civil Status Office, no returns of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion being received.

Births.

The total number of living births registered in the year was 11,157, being an increase of 1,178 over that in the previous year. The annual birth rate, 3·42 per cent., was the highest recorded during the last 10 years, with the exception of 1865, when it was slightly exceeded. The birth rate of the general population was 3·57, and that of the Indian, 3·34. The average annual birth rate in England in a period of 31 years is 3·37.

Compared with 1869, there was an increase in the number of births in every district, but it varied considerably. In Grand Port it was equal to 19 per cent.; in Port Louis, 17; in Pamplemousses and Plaines Wilhems, 12; in Black River, 9; in Rivière du Rempart and Savanne, 8; in Flacq, 5; and Moka, 0·7.

Sex.

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Of the 11,157 children born, 5,662 were males and 5,495 females; so that to every 100 girls, 103 boys were born. There was an excess of male births, however, only in the general population. In the Indian there was an excess of female births, of rather more than 1 per cent. The proportions differ in the several districts, but in only two, Pamplemousses and Black River, is there a total excess of female births. In the district of Grand Port the sexes are equal. The greatest disparity in sex is observed in Rivière du Rempart and Plaines Wilhems, where the proportion of boys born to every 100 girls is respectively 108 and 107.

The births were most numerous in the fourth quarter of the year, and least numerous in the first. In 1869 they were most numerous in the third, and least in the first. In 1870 the births in the last six months exceeded those in the first half of the year by 58 per cent.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered in 1870, exclusive of those which belonged to the military, shipping, and dependencies, was 7,426, and the annual death rate was 2·28 per cent., a death rate that will compare favourably with that of many of the least unhealthy countries of Europe. It is not to be expected that so favourable a death rate can be permanently maintained. 1870 was an exceptional year, following closely on three years of terrible sickness and mortality, during which period a large proportion of the weak and aged succumbed, many of whom under ordinary hygienic conditions might have run a longer course, in due time adding their quota to the mortality of future years.

There was but little difference in the death rates of the two classes of the population, the death rate of the Indian being only 2 per 10,000 higher than that of the general population: nor was there any great difference in the relative mortality of the sexes. In both classes the female rate was higher than that of the male, and the difference was more marked among the Indians, which was scarcely to be expected, seeing how much more the males of that class are exposed to casualties than the females; but it must be remembered that the Indian female births exceeded the male births, which may in some measure account for it. The same inference however may be drawn from this apparent anomaly, as from the relatively high Indian birth rate, viz. that the Indian female element has been underestimated.

Deaths at Different Ages.

My last two quarterly Reports contained Tables showing the proportional mortality of both classes of the population at different periods of life. It would scarcely be fair to draw any general conclusions from the statistics of six months, but still it is impossible to avoid being struck with the large proportion of deaths among the Indian population at what may be regarded as the prime of life, that is between the ages of 20 and 40 years. The fact may be in some

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measure accounted for by the annual departure from the Colony of many Indians after the completion of their industrial residence. It is probable also that the ages of Indians are not always accurately ascertained and recorded. Thinking that a comparison with the rates of mortality at different ages in England might not be without interest, I have appended a tabular statement, from which it will be seen that the comparison is not unfavourable to Mauritius in regard to infant mortality, nor in regard to the proportion of deaths at different ages up to 20 years. But in the 10 years between 20 and 30 it is higher than it is in England in the 15 years between 20 and 35; and in the 20 years between 20 and 40, it is 7 per cent. higher than it is in England in the 35 years between the ages of 20 and 55. The proportional mortality at these ages is higher in both classes of the population, but relatively much higher in the Indian, especially between the ages of 30 and 40 years, where it will be seen to have attained the proportion of 20 per cent. of all the deaths. In each decennial period after the age of 50, the proportional mortality of Indians is consequently much lower than in England, very few deaths of Indians over 60 years of age being registered.

Port Louis.

The number of deaths registered in Port Louis was 1,905. Estimating the population of the town at 65,000, the annual death rate was 2.93. In 1869 the death rate was 4.46. This marked improvement, due in great measure to the improved state of the public health generally, may fairly be attributed in part to the successful efforts made by the Government and the municipality in improving the sanitary condition of the town, which in many respects is infinitely better than it was a few years ago. The general diminution in the mortality of the Island may also be ascribed in part to the fact that greater attention is paid to the wants of the poor, all of whom are now entitled to gratuitous medical relief, although it is to be feared that a large proportion neglect to avail themselves of the privilege.

Of the 1,905 deaths in Port Louis, 904 or 47.4 per cent. were caused by fever, the proportion being nearly 3 per cent. higher than in the rural districts, where it was 43.9. In the first quarter the number of deaths from that cause was 243, in the second, 312; in the third, 195, and in the fourth, 154. Of these total deaths, 59 were described as from intermittent fever, 17 remittent, 1 enteric, 9 malarious fever and cachexy, and the remainder as fever simply. It is probable that all, or nearly all, were modifications of the same disease. In ten public establishments in the town, in which an average of 1,916 men are employed, the annual death rate was 2.79 per cent. In the railway department, employing 1,010 men, there were only 4 deaths in the year.

Sugar Estates.

It appears, from the Reports of the two Medical Inspectors, Drs. Desjardins and Gouly, that notwithstanding the general prevalence of fever, the health of the men employed on sugar estates was satis-

factory, with one or two exceptions. Dr. Gouly reports that in the second quarter of the year fever had assumed a serious character at Petite Savanne, especially on one estate, the camp of which it had been found necessary to remove to a higher and healthier situation. The mortality on that estate had been heavy; 10 men, 2 women, and 6 children having succumbed. He subsequently reports that the change had been highly beneficial, and that the disease had almost disappeared. He described the disease as "having assumed the character of Bombay fever."

In Pamplemousses the annual death rate (of the three quarters) among men employed on sugar estates, was 1.16 per cent.; in Rivière du Rempart, 1.61; in Flacq, 1.44; in Moka, 0.92; in Plaines Wilhems, 1.05; in Savanne, 1.48; in Grand Port, 1.01; in Black River, 1.25. It is not possible to calculate the death rate of the women and children, as their numbers are not given, but it is evidently less favourable than that of the men. In the first quarter of the year the number of deaths of men was 220, women 63, children 225. In the second quarter the number of men who died was 219, women 107, children 224. In the third, men 221, women 102, children 212. Total men 660, women 272, children 661.

A comparison with 1869 gives the following results: a reduction of 3,869 in the total number of deaths registered, and of 3,001 in the number of deaths from fever, equal to 34.2 per cent. in the first case, and 47.4 in the last. The improvement was general, but was most remarkable in the district of Flacq, where the total reduction was 50 per cent. In six districts it ranged between 30 and 33 per cent. In Grand Port and Savanne it amounted respectively to 21 and 13 per cent.

The highest monthly number of deaths registered in 1869 was 1,456 in April, the lowest 518 in November. In 1870 the highest was 721 in January, the lowest 521 in October, and the same in November.

In Port Louis the highest monthly mortality was 216 in January, the lowest 121 in September. In Pamplemousses the highest 104 in January, lowest 59 in October. In Rivière du Rempart, highest 43 in May and June, lowest 25 in October. In Flacq, highest 104 in January, lowest 70 in November. In Grand Port, highest 83 in January, lowest 48 in October. In Savanne, highest 76 in June, lowest 40 in January. In Plaines Wilhems, highest 93 in March, lowest 59 in October. In Black River, highest 37 in May, lowest 13 in September and October. In Moka, highest 42 in August, lowest 25 in May. Comparing the four quarters of the year, we find that 1,996 deaths were registered in the first, 2,062 in the second, 1,787 in the third, and 1,576 in the fourth. In 1869 the numbers were respectively 3,340, 3,961, 2,175, 1,819; a difference in the respective quarters of 1,344, 1,899, 888, and 243 in favour of 1870.

Causes of Death.

Fever caused 3,829 deaths, being 44.8 per cent. of the total mortality of the year. In the first quarter the number of deaths from that cause was 943; in the second, 1,029; in the third, 789;

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and in the fourth, 568. The variations will be found to correspond pretty closely with those in the mortality from all causes. For instance, in the second quarter there was an increase on the first quarter of 66 in the total number of deaths, and of 86 in the number of deaths from fever; in the third quarter a reduction on the second of 275 in the total deaths, and of 240 in the deaths from fever; in the fourth quarter a reduction on the third of 211 in the total deaths, and of 221 in the deaths from fever, from which it would appear that the mortality from all other causes does not vary considerably, and that the fluctuations in the death rate are in great measure due to fever alone. Table No. 5 gives the number of deaths from fever and from all other causes in each quarter of the year in the several districts, from which it will be seen that in the first quarter the number of deaths from all other causes (highest) was 1,055, and in the third (lowest) 998, a difference of only 57, whilst the number of deaths from fever in the second quarter (highest) was 1,029, and in the fourth (lowest) 568, a difference of 461.

According to the registered causes of death, dysentery, next to fever, was the most fatal disease, 720 deaths having been ascribed to that cause. How many of these fatal cases were complications or sequels of malarial fever, there are no means of ascertaining, but it is a significant fact that 54 per cent. of the total deaths occurred during the first six months of the year, and 61 per cent. of the deaths from dysentery. It must however be borne in mind that dysentery is always more prevalent during the dry months, when the rivers are low, and the water consequently less pure. Diarrhoea caused 127 deaths, and, like dysentery, was most fatal during the first half of the year, nearly 60 per cent. of the deaths from that cause having occurred in that period. There were 5 deaths from sporadic cholera in the year, 2 of which occurred at Flacq in the first quarter, and 1 at Savanne, 1 at Grand Port, and 1 at Port Louis in the fourth. A full account was given of the three latter cases in my Report for the quarter ending 31st December. There were 6 deaths from whooping cough, all of which occurred at Savanne. In 1869 the number of deaths from that cause was 31, of which 10 occurred at Savanne. Diphtheria and sore throat caused 52 deaths, 36 of which were registered in the first six months of the year. These cases were not confined to any particular districts, but were distributed pretty generally; only 4 were medically certified to have been cases of diphtheria, and they occurred, 1 at Port Louis, 1 at Grand Port, and 2 at Flacq. Five children died from croup, 2 in the first quarter and 3 in the second. In 1869 the deaths from these causes were, diphtheria 1, sore throat 44, croup 1. Deaths from diseases of the respiratory system generally, caused 424 deaths, against 480 in 1869. These diseases were most fatal in the last six months of the year, in which period 57·7 per cent. of all the deaths from those causes were registered. Diseases of the nervous system were also more fatal in the last six months, especially tetanus and infantile convulsions, which caused respectively 102 and 253 deaths. The number of deaths from tetanus registered year by year is very remarkable, and does not appear to be decreasing. In 1868 the number was 89; in 1869, 62; in 1870, 102. Only 7 of these deaths

were medically certified, and only 1 was described as a case of traumatic tetanus. Now idiopathic tetanus is by no means a common disease in other countries, and the causes of its frequency in Mauritius would form an interesting subject of inquiry. Tetanus however is confined pretty much to children of tender age in Mauritius, and may possibly be another name for *convulsions*. One death from hydrophobia was registered in the second quarter of the year at Flacq; the case was that of an Indian boy aged ten years.

The number of deaths from phagedenic ulcers and hospital gangrene was 74 against 100 in 1869; of the former 19 occurred in the first quarter, 28 in the second, 19 in the third, and 8 in the fourth. 26 of these deaths were registered at Port Louis, 13 at Pamplemousses, 2 at Rivière du Rempart, 5 at Flacq, 10 at Grand Port, 2 at Savanne, 14 at Plaines Wilhems, 2 at Black River. A very large proportion of these deaths occurred at the civil hospital and the public institutions at Pamplemousses, Grand Port, and Plaines Wilhems.

119 deaths from the effects of childbirth were registered in the year, 27 of which occurred in Port Louis. Now as the number of child-bearing women in the year was 11,990, it follows that about 1 in every hundred died. In 1869 the proportion was still higher, but even now it is double the average of England.

The number of deaths from violence or accident amounted to 259, being a reduction of 64 on that of the previous year. The homicides were 10 against 15, the suicides 66 against 90. The suicides consisted of 59 Indian men, 1 Indian woman, 4 Creole men and 1 woman, and 1 Chinaman. 40 deaths were registered from drowning, 58 from burns and scalds, and 1 from privation. 18 of these deaths were registered in the first, 27 in the second, 24 in the third, and 30 in the fourth quarter of the year. The number of deaths registered, the causes of which were unknown, was 48.

C. F. EDWARDS,
Acting Officer of the Civil Status.

Enclosure 4 in No. 4.

To His Excellency The Honourable A. H. GORDON, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency.

I have the honour to submit my Report for 1870, appending to it various tabulated statements* setting forth the most important details connected with our immigration of that and the previous years.

2. The first of those statements shows that the following immigrants were introduced in 1870 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
From Madras - - -	722	336	1,058
„ Calcutta - - -	2,109	909	3,018
			<u>4,076</u>

Immigrants introduced in 1870.

They arrived in 13 ships, 9 of which came from Calcutta.

* The returns with this Report are not printed.

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3. The previous year's immigration had been as follows :—

Immigration
of 1869.

	M.	P.	Total.
From Madras - - -	903	379	1,282
„ Calcutta - - -	279	121	400
			<hr/> 1,682

Requisitions.

4. At the close of 1870, the numbers of immigrants remaining to be received on the requisitions yet unsatisfied were—615 from Madras and 1,226 from Calcutta. The number due from Madras is not stated to be larger, because numerous requisitions which had been sent to that Presidency, having lapsed, had to be struck out.

Recruitment
at Madras.

5. Our agent at Madras, on being called upon to account for the tardiness with which the requisitions sent to him had been acted upon, has represented that he finds it extremely difficult to recruit emigrants under the instructions which he has received from our Government, and has applied for an increase of his powers.

He states that he is placed at a great disadvantage, relatively to other recruiting agents; first, because the rate of wages at which he is authorized to engage emigrants is lower than those proposed by other agents; next, because the agents for the French Colonies are allowed to give intending emigrants three months' pay in advance, whereas his advances are not allowed to exceed one month's wages; and, lastly, because they propose a free return passage to the emigrant after five years' service, whereas he is not permitted to make any such offer. His representations having been referred, in compliance with your Excellency's orders, to the Immigration Committee of the Council of Government, I need not allude to them any further in this Report.

Bombay
Agency.

6. The slow progress of immigration from Madras led several planters to renew their endeavours to obtain labourers from Bombay. Our agent at that port, on being informed that it was thought desirable to bring his agency into active operation again, proposed to make up for the want of a permanent dépôt on shore by employing ships as temporary dépôts, and embarking his recruits as fast as they would present themselves. The scheme has been submitted to the consideration of the Government of Bombay, whose decision is now awaited.

Calcutta
Agency.

7. Our Calcutta agent, although authorized to offer emigrants neither a higher rate of wages than our agent at Madras, nor larger advances of pay, nor any greater advantage in other respects, has succeeded in carrying out his requisitions very satisfactorily: not only have his requisitions been promptly executed, but the labourers dispatched by him have been well selected, and the expenses attending their transport have been restrained by him within the narrowest possible bounds. Yet, it is proper that I should state that from Calcutta as well as from Madras representations have been received that more favourable terms are proposed to emigrants by the other labour-importing Colonies than by ours.

General state
of health of
immigrants of
1870.

8. The general state of health of the immigrants who arrived in 1870 was very satisfactory. In no case was it found necessary to subject them to quarantine.

9. Three ships from Calcutta, and three from Madras, arrived without any mortality whatever. I think it right to mention their names, and the names of their commanders:—

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Mortality at sea in 1870.

Date of Arrival.	Ship.	Master.	Whence.
January 16 - -	Alabama - -	Wm. Harrison - -	Calcutta.
June 22 - - -	Allum Ghier - -	W. Williams - - -	"
October 5 - - -	Nimrod - - -	J. Bullock - - -	"
March 7 - - -	Inverduie - -	James Peter - - -	Madras.
June 11 - - -	Palmyra - - -	Thomas Halbert - -	"
September 7 - -	Charmian - - -	C. E. Stewart - - -	"

In the other vessels the total mortality was 23 deaths from Calcutta, and 1 from Madras; which only gives a ratio of $\frac{24}{100}$ per cent.

10. This ratio of deaths stands in favourable contrast with the mortuary rates in emigration from India to the West Indies.

The latter were as follows in 1869:—

In ships despatched to

British Guiana - - -	4.80 per cent.
Trinidad - - - - -	1.82 "
Jamaica - - - - -	2.58 "

Mortality in Indian emigration to the West Indies in 1869.

11. The mortality in our own immigrant vessels in 1870, compared to that of the two previous years, is as follows:—

1868 - - - -	.88 per cent.
1869 - - - -	.41 "
1870 - - - -	.58 "

Mortality in ships of 1870 compared to that of previous years.

12. The proportion of females to males in the immigration of the year was—

From Madras - - - -	43.1 per cent.
" Calcutta - - - -	46.5 "
In total number introduced - -	43.9 "

Proportion of females.

13. The average amount of the employer's share of the cost of introduction was—

	£	s.	d.	
From Calcutta - - -	9	5	9	} per male adult.
" Madras - - - -	9	14	9	

Cost of introduction of immigrants.

14. The departures of the year were as follows:—

Departures of 1870.

	M.	F.	Total.
For Madras - - -	268	102	370
" Calcutta - - -	1,359	301	1,660
" Bombay - - -	321	166	487
" Other Places - -	224	101	325
	<u>2,172</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>2,842</u>

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15. The total departures of the three previous years were—

Departures of previous years.		M.	F.	Total
In 1867	- - -	2,571	827	3,398
1868	- - -	1,880	664	2,544
1869	- - -	1,684	636	2,320

Proportion of
females in
emigration.

16. The proportion of females to males in the emigration of 1870 was 30·84 per cent.

Arrivals and
departures
since 1834.

17. The arrivals and departures of Indian immigrants since 1834 are given in the Appendix marked D; which shows that since the introduction of labour from India was first resorted to no less than 374,450 immigrants have been thence brought over; and that 100,350 have returned to their country after having gone through various periods of service.

Outlines of
the history of
our immigration.

18. I should have wished to submit to your Excellency a complete retrospect of our immigration since its commencement, following it step by step through all its phases; but the various other labours to which I have now to attend forbid my going beyond the mere outlines of its history.

First period.

The labour-market of India was first looked forward to by our planters when the abolition of the slave trade became a certainty.* The first Indian labourers were introduced in 1834. The measure was regarded by many with great misgivings as to its success. The character of the Indian and his fitness for agricultural labour had yet to be studied: the first trials of Indian immigration were therefore very limited and hesitant. But it soon became apparent that labour could be drawn from no better source; and before the middle of 1839 no less than 25,287 immigrants were thence introduced.

Second period.

On the 29th May, 1839, emigration from Calcutta to Mauritius was suspended by the Governor-General of India, on the ground that the protection afforded to emigrants by the regulations then in operation was insufficient. It is undeniable that there were good reasons for imposing further checks upon the various operations involved in the recruitment of emigrants and their conveyance to this Colony. The interference of Government had until then been confined to the delivery of a "*special licence*" to any person who volunteered to undertake those operations. There being no further control, abuses arose which it became imperative to stop. The interval between 1834 and May, 1839, may be considered as forming the first period of our immigration.

The second period may be taken to begin on the 2nd December, 1842, when emigration from India was reopened to us under a systematized governmental superintendence, and to come down to the 25th November, 1856, when another suspension was decreed by the Government of India. The reason assigned for this second interdiction was that our quarantine stations were not in an efficient state.

Third and
fourth periods.

Up to the 31st March, 1844, the introduction, though controlled, was left to private individuals without any limitation as to the numbers to be introduced; and a bounty was paid to the introducer

* The total negro population, at the time of the emancipation of slaves, was estimated to amount to 61,000 souls; of which number about 28,000 were considered to form the effective staff of the agricultural labourers in the Colony.

for every immigrant landed: this was termed the *Bounty System*. It was superseded in March, 1844, when the whole of the operations connected with immigration were taken under the direct supervision and management of Government. The number to be introduced annually was thenceforward fixed by the Council of Government: this was called the *Contingent System*.

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The second interdiction was removed by the Government of India on the 22nd April, 1857. The interval between that date and the 30th November, 1858, when the contingent system was abolished and rules were established for allowing contracts of service to be entered into in India, may be looked upon as the third period; and the fourth may be considered as extending thence down to the present time.

Since November, 1858, (beginning of the fourth period) the introduction of labour has been freed from the arbitrary restrictions to which it had previously been subjected. Instead of introducing annual contingents which might either exceed, or be insufficient to satisfy the actual requirements of the Colony, all persons in need of labour have been left free to indent for any number of immigrants they wish to receive, provided they furnish good security for the payment of the cost of introduction, except one-half of the passage-money of females, which has been made chargeable to the public funds;* and provided also that they satisfy Government that they are in a position to carry out all their engagements towards the immigrants for whom they apply.

By Ordinance No. 16 of 1862, which came into operation in April, 1863, an important change was made in the system inaugurated in 1858; the first contract of service of the immigrant was made co-extensive with his industrial residence. Under the law previously in force, the immigrant, though bound to serve for five years, was only engaged to his first employer for three-fifths of that time: he was free to spend the remainder under other employers of his choice; these becoming liable to refund to his introducer a portion of the cost of introduction equivalent to the residue of industrial residence which had to be gone through.

19. The total Indian population in the Colony at the close of each of the two last years was as follows:—

Increase of
Indian popu-
lation.

	M.	F.	Total.
1869- - -	138,883	67,888	206,771
1870 - - -	140,283	70,353	210,636
Increase -	1,400	2,465	3,865

20. There has likewise been an increase in the general population.

Increase of
general
population.

	M.	F.	Total.
1869- - -	63,604	52,549	116,153
1870 - - -	64,608	53,399	118,007
Increase -	1,004	850	1,854

* As the proportion of females to males which the present regulations require is 50 per cent, or one-third of the total number introduced, the proportion of the cost of introduction devolving on the public treasury is one-sixth.

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The increases in both sections of the population are due to the arrivals having exceeded the departures, and to the births having outnumbered the deaths.

Proportion of females to males in the Colony.

21. Whereas the proportion of males to females remained nearly stationary in the general population, the percentage having only changed from 82·61 in 1869 to 82·68 in 1870, in the Indian population it rose from 48·88 at the end of 1869 to 50·15 at the close of 1870.

In the total population the proportion of females to males was 60·39 per cent.

Deaths in the Colony during the last three years.

22. The deaths of the year were as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total.
In Indian population -	3,081	1,687	4,768
„ General „ -	1,451	1,207	2,658
Totals -	4,532	2,894	7,426

Those of the two previous years are shown by the following figures :—

	Indian Population.	General Population.	Total.
1868 -	12,186	6,217	18,403
1869 -	7,926	8,869	11,295

Rates of mortality.

23. The millesimal ratio of deaths has considerably declined :—

	Ratio per 1000.	1868.	1869.	1870.
In Indian population -	-	55·1	36·9	22·1
„ General „ -	-	51·0	28·1	22·0
„ Total „ -	-	53·6	33·7	22·0*

The formula taken for the computation of these ratios is that which I explained in my last Annual Report.

Number of sugar estates.

24. The last half-yearly reports of the Stipendiary Magistrates show that the number of sugar estates is now reduced to 215.

Population of estates.

25. The population of those estates was as follows at the end of 1870 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Above the age of 10 years :—			
Indian immigrants -	66,792	22,406	89,198
Creoles -	8,048	2,945	5,988
Africans and others -	408	101	509
	70,249	25,452	95,695
Children under 10 -	12,839	12,923	35,762
Total population -	83,082	38,375	121,457

Decrease in population of estates.

26. These figures, compared to those of 1869, show a considerable decrease in the population of the estates, amongst the males. The falling-off is as follows :—

* The mean annual rate of mortality in England, from all causes, was 22 per 1000 in 1868. It had been 2·10ths higher in the preceding quinquennial period.

Male population of 1869	-	-	-	84,679
Decrease at end of 1870	-	-	-	1,597

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It is clear that there have been large withdrawals from the sugar estates. Hence the present tendency to a rise in wages, and to increased demands for new immigrants.

27. The population of the island having increased while that of the sugar estates has diminished, it follows that the classes non-resident on those estates have had their numbers strengthened. The census about to be taken will show what their pursuits are, and how many persons are engaged in each different occupation.

Classes of population non-resident on sugar estates.

28. The mortality on sugar estates fell from 3,701 in 1869, to 2,352 in 1870. The ratio has been declining as follows since 1868:—

Mortality on sugar estates since 1868.

1868	-	-	-	45.1 per 1000
1869	-	-	-	80.2 "
1870	-	-	-	18.9 "

29. The daily average number of sick treated in the estate hospitals of each district during 1869 and 1870 is shown in Appendix G, which is based on returns received by me from the Medical Inspectors. The total average number under treatment per day is reported to have been 195 in 1869 and 146 in 1870.

Sickness on estates.

No correct inference can be drawn from these figures as to the general state of health of the population of the estates, nor can any right conclusions be grounded on the details of the Medical Inspectors' returns as to the relative healthiness either of the estates or of the districts. As many of the sick decline going to the hospitals, the hospital registers do not show the whole amount of sickness on each estate, but merely the cases which have undergone hospital treatment.

30. The state of the camps and hospitals is reported to be as follows:—

Camps and hospitals.

	Camps.	Hospitals.
Very good	9	12
Good	188	171
Tolerable	13	16
In need of repairs and alterations	4	8
Bad	5	1
Very bad	1	0

Those which were not in a satisfactory state were ordered to be set aright. I propose to ascertain by personal inspections whether their defects have been removed.

31. The daily average number of absentees on all the estates taken together, amounted to 5,801 in the last half-year of 1870; it was 6,003 in the corresponding period of 1869; and 7,235 in 1868.

Absenteeism.

32. The number of deserters remaining unarrested continues declining:—

Deserters.

Deserters unarrested.

End of 1868	-	-	-	2,649
" 1869	-	-	-	2,376
" 1870	-	-	-	1,643

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The returns do not show how many of the deserters of each of these three years deserted within the year, and how many were old deserters. A printed form requiring information on those points has been addressed to the planters, so that the progress or decline of desertion may be better ascertained in future.

Arrears of wages.

33. Thirty-one estates owed arrears of wages exceeding two months. The arrears due were as follows:—

No. of Estates.	No. of Months.
24 - - - -	3
6 - - - -	4
1 - - - -	5

The magistrates have been requested to ascertain and report whether those arrears have been paid up; and whether any, and if so what, arrears have accumulated on those estates since the end of last year.

Rates of wages and allowances.

34. The present average rates of wages and allowances of agricultural labourers and of domestic servants, artisans, and tradesmen, are shown in Appendix H.

The present average rate of wages of old immigrants, compared to the mean rate at the end of last year, exhibits an increase of nearly two shillings. There is a tendency to a still further rise, due to the decrease which I have already pointed out in the labouring population of the estates, and to the insufficiency of the present immigration to keep the labour market adequately supplied.

Appendix I.

The Government scale of wages and allowances has remained unaltered since December, 1868.

Engagements.

35. The number of engagements passed between labourers and employers, and the rates at which they were passed, are shown in Appendix J. 76,921 men were engaged; 31,461 changed masters; 45,460 re-engaged on the estates where they had already been employed.

Appendix E shows that 65,193 men were engaged by proprietors of sugar estates, and 5,050 by job contractors.

Indo-Mauritians.

The number of men who engaged themselves comprised 3,004 Creoles of Indian origin. This class of Indo-Mauritians is fast increasing; and it is a fact worthy of notice that very few of them leave the Colony.

Length of contracts.

36. The periods for which the engagements of 1870 were contracted were as follows:—

	No. of Men engaged.
Less than one year - - - -	4,877
One year - - - -	53,353
Eighteen months - - - -	12,300
Two years - - - -	4,113
Three „ - - - -	1,990
Five „ - - - -	288
Total - - - -	76,921

Cases tried by the Stipendiary Magistrates.

37. If the number of cases in which the Stipendiary Magistrates are appealed to for the redress of grievances can rightly be taken as a

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criterion; the mutual relations between masters and servants have very much improved. The convictions pronounced in the Stipendiary Courts during the last three years, in matters between masters and servants, stand as follows :—

	1868.	1869.	1870.
Against Servants - - -	14,875	8,152	4,954
„ Masters - - -	7,733	3,936	2,507

The convictions have fallen to *one-third* of what they amounted to in 1868, both in proceedings against masters and in complaints against servants. This decrease of litigation on both sides undeniably indicates a healthier tone in the intercourse between labourers and their employers.

38. The numbers set against masters comprise the following awards on complaints for non-payment of wages :—

Non-payment of wages.

	Convictions.
1868 - - -	5,832
1869 - - -	3,518
1870 - - -	2,031

I am happy to be able to report so marked an improvement in this respect likewise: it leads me to hope that greater regularity in the payment of wages will be obtained in future.

39. Appendix O shows the number of Indians convicted in the Court of Assizes during the last five years. The cases of murder and manslaughter increased from 7 in 1869 to 16 in 1870; but the total number of commitments (under all charges) was nearly the same: 58 in 1869; 59 in 1870.

Indians convicted in the Supreme Court.

40. The convictions of all the Criminal Courts of the Colony, in 1870, are given in the next statement (Appendix P). They were as follows :—

Convictions in all the Criminal Courts.

	M.	F.	Total.
Indians - - -	6,419	135	6,554
Others - - -	1,326	89	1,415

The proportion of the number of individuals convicted under the criminal law to the total amount of each section of the population was as follows :—

Percentage.

3.1 - - -	In Indian population.
1.1 - - -	„ General „

41. The Acting Officer of the Civil Status of Port Louis having brought to notice numerous suicides, chiefly committed by Indians, in 1868 and 1869, the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies was drawn to that subject, and in consequence of his Lordship's instructions I have been directed to make inquiries in regard to that matter. I have called for returns from all the Officers of the

Suicides.

MAURITIUS. Civil Status exhibiting the number of suicides registered by each of them, with such particulars as it is in their power to report.

They show the following details :—

Persons who committed suicide in 1870 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Indians - - -	56	3	59
Creoles - - -	5	1	6
Chinese - - -	1	0	1
Europeans - - -	1	0	1
	63	4	67

The Acting Officer of the Civil Status of Port Louis has reported the suicides of 1868 and 1869 to be as follows :—

1868 { Indians - - - - 61 } 64
 Others - - - - 3

1869 { Indians - - - - 89 } 90
 Others - - - - 1

In the Indian population there have therefore been 30 suicides less in 1870 than during the previous year.

Inquests recommended.

42. Satisfactory as it is to see that the number of individuals who destroyed themselves last year was so much smaller, comparatively to the previous year, I think it advisable that a special inquest be held in future on the occurrence of every case of suicide, so that all the circumstances of each case may be fully investigated and brought to light; and I should beg of your Excellency to direct that a copy of the report be sent to me by the magistrate who has made the inquiry whenever the deceased is an Indian immigrant.

43. The ratio of the suicides in this Colony was as follows :—

In Indian population - - - - 280 per million.
 „ General „ - - - - 67 „

Ratio of suicides compared to that of other places.

It would have been interesting to know how these rates stand comparatively to those of India; but the data procurable from India are scanty and incomplete. The Administration Report of Madras for 1868-69 states that the suicides recorded in that Presidency in 1868 amounted in all to 1,300—which number would represent a proportion of 54 per million to the estimated population of the whole Presidency.

That would be less than one-fifth of the proportion of suicides in our Indian population in 1870; and even lower than the ratio in England—which was 70 per million in 1868, and a little more than 64 per million in the previous five years taken together.

But as the same Administration Report of Madras, further on, describes the system of registration of births and deaths as working unsatisfactorily in that part of India, and plainly states that “*registration, without any doubt, is largely evaded,*” it is assumable that the number of suicides registered in the provinces of Madras is much below the reality.

My knowledge of the character of Indians leads me to the belief that they are, in general, more addicted to self-murder than Europeans; and that suicidal propensities are neither weaker, nor, proportionally to population, more seldom met with in India than here.

I am inclined to think that if the characteristics of the Indian *felo-de-se* were studied, if the feelings and impulses under which he generally comes to the resolution of parting with life were watched, they would be found to differ from what characterizes the generality of self-murderers in Europe. I merely point to the inquiry as one which, in all probability, would tend to account for the much heavier ratio of suicides in our Indian population than in the population of England. The special inquests I have recommended would serve to show whether there are any other causes which might be considered as purely local, and not attributable to ethnological or physiological differences.

44. The suicides of females contrasted with those of males show the following differences of proportion:—

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Proportion of females to males in suicides.

Proportion of Females to Males.

Madras, 1868	-	-	-	-	-	151.0 per cent.
England, 1868	-	-	-	-	-	35.0 "
Mauritius, 1870, in Indian population	-	-	-	-	-	5.3 "

It is difficult to account for differences so great without further investigation into their causes; but it is evidently desirable that every endeavour should be used to ascertain as far as possible what those causes are.

I have no doubt that the smallness of the proportion in this Colony is chiefly ascribable to the females of our Indian population being, comparatively to the females of their classes in India, far better provided for, and therefore less inclined to self-murder.

45. Of the general condition of the immigrants in the Colony I have no hesitation in reporting favourably. Individual grievances have sometimes to be inquired into and redressed; our laws regulating labour still need amendments; our system of governing immigrants is not wholly free from imperfections; yet, on the whole, I think I may confidently affirm that the condition of the immigrant labourer in Mauritius is decidedly happier than that of the generality of labourers of his class in India.

General condition of immigrants in the Colony.

46. The sums deposited by Indians in the Savings Bank during the years 1869 and 1870 were as follows:—

Savings and remittances.

	£	s.	d.
1869	21,999	12	11
1870	21,716	18	4

The amount standing to the credit of Indians in the Savings Bank at the end of each of the last two years was—

	£	s.	d.
In 1869	69,032	8	5½
„ 1870	70,476	12	1½

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Their remittances to India through the Immigration Office were as follows :—

To Calcutta	-	-	16,818	rupees.
„ Madras	-	-	2,590	„
„ Bombay	-	-	1,120	„
Total	-	-	<u>20,528</u>	

Laws of 1870
directly concern-
ing Indian
immigrants.

47. Of the laws passed in 1870 the two following most directly concern Indian immigrants.

1. Ordinance No. 11.—To amend the laws relating to public health.

2. Ordinance No. 12.—To punish the enticing away and harbouring of wives of Indian immigrants.

By the former it was intended to impose a tax on all immigrants, old or new, engaged or unengaged, in the same manner as on the rest of the community, for the sanitary government of the Colony. The principles of this Ordinance need not be further adverted to here, as it has not been confirmed by Her Majesty, and has to be recast.

Ordinance No. 12, besides providing a penalty against the enticing away or harbouring of wives of Indian immigrants, empowers district magistrates to compel a wife who is a native of India, and has deserted her conjugal domicile, to return to it. The power of coercion so granted to district magistrates is, however, carried no further: the wife, if she desert again, is simply exposed to a renewed attempt on the part of the magistrate to bring about a reconciliation between her and her repudiated husband.

A more substantial improvement is provided in a clause which enacts that district magistrates shall have jurisdiction to entertain claims for alimony instituted by deserted wives. This power was formerly invested in the Supreme Court, to which the wives of immigrants, those especially who, being deserted by their husbands, are consequently penniless, have practically no access whatever.

Amendments
desirable in
existing laws.

48. It appears to me to be very desirable that the jurisdiction of district magistrates be still further enlarged in matters relating to marriage. While, on the one hand, they are called upon to use their utmost endeavours to impress upon Indians a reverence for the marriage tie, and a proper sense of the duties and obligations consequent on the marriage contract, I think that, on the other, when there exist valid grounds for a separation from bed and board, or a dissolution of marriage, they should be vested with the power of decreeing it.

The colonial laws do provide remedies for cases in which a judicial separation or a divorce is justly claimable; but those remedies are placed entirely beyond the reach of the poor. It thence follows, that unions which there exist good grounds to put an end to are often forcibly prolonged until they give rise to unfortunate consequences, sometimes even to crime—or that they are broken without the sanction of the law, and replaced by concubinage and its train of demoralizing results.

49. In my last Annual Report I submitted it to be my opinion

that although our legislation concerning labour had in many respects proved very beneficial, there were several questions involved in it which required further consideration and probably further action on the part of the Legislature. Subsequent experience has confirmed and strengthened the opinion which I then held. On some of the points to which I referred I am not now wholly prepared to enter, but to the following I think it my duty to make reference without any further procrastination.

The restrictions set on free labour have, in my opinion, been carried too far. The limit to which they should be extended ought, I think, to be reconsidered—so that while a proper check is laid on vagrancy, no undue restraint should be cast on the exercise of honest industry.

As the rules imposing those restrictions weigh exceptionally on one single class of the community—the class of old immigrants—it is undeniably just and proper that every relaxation of those rules consistent with public order should be conceded to them as soon as possible.

50. The amendments which I consider to be necessary in the regulations now in force are the following:—

(1.) That every old immigrant who is the holder of a licence authorizing him to carry on any business, trade, or profession, should be exempted from the obligation imposed on old immigrants by Regulation No. 56 (that of paying for a day-labourer's licence if he work by the day).

(2.) That the fee imposed on the old immigrant who is a day-labourer, by Regulation 78, should be reduced from 1*l.* to 10*s.* per annum.

(3.) That old immigrants who have paid for hawkers' or carriers' licences should be placed quite on a par with all other hawkers and carriers as to the liberty of proceeding from one district to another.

(4.) That every old immigrant who is not under written engagement, and changes his abode or occupation within the district of his domicile, should be allowed at least 48 hours to declare the change to the Police Office of his district.

(5.) That old immigrants who are not under engagements (verbal or written) should be free to go and visit their friends in other districts, or to proceed to other districts on business, provided they do not absent themselves more than ten days from the district in which they are domiciled, without having previously obtained the permission mentioned in Regulation 45, or given notice to the principal police officer of the district in which they so prolong their stay.

(6.) That police passes, when renewed because they are torn, soiled, or so much written upon as to have no space for further entries, be issued free of charge.

(7.) That the power of exempting an old immigrant from the payment of a fee on any police pass be extended to the Protector of Immigrants.

(8.) That the power of authorizing any old immigrant to go and reside in a foreign district for a specified time, be extended to the Protector of Immigrants and to the stipendiary magistrates.

G

Amendments
suggested to
be made in
labour regula-
tions now in
force.

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(9.) That every police pass applied for by an old immigrant who is entitled to receive it should be delivered to him without any delay or postponement, provided the application be made between 8 A.M. and 4 P.M. : and that the officer entrusted with the duty of delivering such passes be subjected to a penalty in the event of his not delivering any such pass on the day it is applied for, when he has no lawful ground for refusing its delivery ; such penalty to be summarily inflicted by the stipendiary magistrate on the complaint of the applicant or any person on his behalf.

Consolidation
of labour laws.

51. By Ordinance No. 31 of 1867 many of the laws relating to Indian immigrants and other labourers were amended and consolidated. The consolidation, intentionally, was not made complete—that is, not so as to embrace all the laws of the Colony regarding labourers—because many of the changes then introduced into the system were looked upon as tentative, and as requiring the test of experience before being definitively admitted into our Statute Books. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable us to see clearly how far those new principles will prove successful in carrying out the intentions of the Legislature ; some of those principles require to be tried in a modified form before a definitive judgment can rightly be passed upon them. Besides, it is not improbable that other measures not hitherto sanctioned by law will have to be resorted to with the view of perfecting the system now in operation. It is therefore too soon yet to undertake a thorough consolidation of our labour laws, desirable as it no doubt is that they should be reduced to one complete code.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

H. N. D. BEYTS,

Protector of Immigrants.

15th April, 1871.

Enclosure 5
in No. 4.

Enclosure 5 in No. 4.

SIR,

Government Savings Bank, April 1, 1871.

I have the honour to lay before your Excellency the Annual Report of the Government Savings Bank for the past year 1870.

2. The Report is accompanied with the usual Appendices, giving in detail the necessary explanatory information as regards the movements of the bank during that period, and I have much satisfaction in stating that the public (the saving portion of) continue to manifest a desire to avail of the many advantages it offers.

3. The abundant crop in 1869-70, referred to in my former Report, has not been without its influence in improving the position of the bank, by giving an increase of 460 in the number of the depositors, and of 10,344*l.* in the amount now held in deposit ; equivalent to 6·20 per 100 of the former and 5·98 per 100 of the latter ; while, on the other hand, there was a decrease of 4·58 per 100 in the accounts closed.

4. The increase in the number of depositors and in the sums deposited are not in the same proportion, for the simple reason the deposits are in general made in small sums, which cannot exceed

during the year 75*l*. by any single depositor, while the withdrawals are but too frequently in large sums, sometimes reaching upwards of 300*l*., the accumulation of past years; these large withdrawals being in many instances caused by depositors being able to make satisfactory investments, in arranging successions, and taking their money with them to Europe, and by Indians leaving the Colony: the departure of a vessel with time-expired or return Coolies, never fails to cause the withdrawal of large sums.

5. I beg here to add that during the first two months of the present year there was no falling off in the desire of the public to make use of the bank.

6. I trust it may not be considered out of place to lay before your Excellency a short statement showing the progress the bank has made since 1867, a year of death, sorrow, and deep affliction and much distress, caused by the pernicious fever which then raged, and which obliged a large number of depositors to withdraw their previous hard-earned savings, and close their accounts. This decrease was, however, followed by a reaction, as the baneful effects of the fever commenced to subside; such a pleasing change has been maintained by a steady increase in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited.

The statement stands as follows:—

	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	Increase.
		£	£
1867 - -	6,737	163,593	
1868 - -	7,113	165,754 = 376	2,161
1869 - -	7,413	172,730 = 300	6,976
1870 - -	7,873	183,074 = 460	10,344
Making a total increase of		- 1,136	£19,481

7. As the savings bank may be looked on in the light of a barometer, indicating the increasing or decreasing prosperity of the saving portion of the community, I have no doubt it will prove gratifying to your Excellency to find a steady improvement in the condition of that class, as regards both the general and the Indian populations.

8. During the past three years the Island has made one abundant and two bad crops, the latter causing, in each case, a diminution not far short of 800,000*l*. in the value of its only staple produce, affecting more or less the means of saving; and I may add, notwithstanding a diminution of nearly 40,000 persons of all classes on the Island, caused by fever, the bank has continued to improve annually its position, giving reasonable hopes that as the population again increases it will show further improvement.

9. Appendix No. 1 contains in abstract a general statement of the operations of the bank during the year 1871. A comparison with the corresponding one for the preceding year shows that in every instance there was an increase, with the exception of withdrawals; rather a favourable circumstance, indicating continued confidence and a diminished desire to fall back on their former savings to meet the wants of sickness and distress.

10. The principal reasons which caused depositors to withdraw

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their money and close their accounts are more fully explained in Appendix No. 3.

11. The general result as shown by this statement is that at the end of the last three years there were 7,873 depositors holding in deposit 183,074*l.*, being at the rate of 23*l.* 5*s.* 0½*d.* for each depositor, or 11*s.* 5½*d.* for each person in the Island; giving an increase over the preceding year as before stated of 460 depositors and of 10,344*l.* held in deposit.

12. Appendix No. 2 is a monthly statement of the operations during the year; the general result stands as follows:—

Years.	No. of new Depositors.	Total Amount deposited.	No. of Accounts closed.	Total Amount withdrawn, including interest.
1870 - - -	1,563	£ 63,196 2 6½	1,103	£ 61,005 17 6½
1869 - - -	1,456	60,085 2 3	1,156	60,510 0 9½
Increase - - -	107	3,111 0 3½	—	495 16 8½
Decrease - - -	—	—	53	—

The sums deposited and withdrawn are divided thus:—

	Amount Deposited.	Amount Withdrawn.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General population - - -	40,479 9 2½	39,877 3 2½
Indian population - - -	22,716 13 4	21,128 14 3½
Total - - -	£63,196 2 6½	£61,005 17 6½

and gives a comparative increase and decrease of the two last years:—

GENERAL POPULATION.

	Deposits.	Payments.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1870 - - - - -	40,479 9 2½	39,877 3 2½
1869 - - - - -	38,085 9 4	39,974 16 10
Increase - - - - -	£2,393 19 10½	—
Decrease - - - - -	—	£97 13 7¼

INDIAN POPULATION.

	Deposits.	Payments.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1869 - - - - -	22,716 13 4	21,128 14 3½
1870 - - - - -	21,999 12 11	20,535 3 11½
Increase - - - - -	£717 0 5	£593 10 4
Decrease - - - - -	—	—

showing a large increase of 2,393*l.* 19*s.* 10½*d.* in the deposit and a small decrease of 97*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* in the payment by general population, and an increase both in the deposit and payment by the Indian population.

13. Appendix No. 3 explains in detail the principal causes of the withdrawals of deposits, as well as they could be ascertained at the time of withdrawal. Many depositors, particularly Indians, show a great reluctance to declare the real object why they close their accounts, and therefore too often give a fictitious motive.

14. It, however, shows a continued decrease in the withdrawals, both as regards the general and the Indian populations, implying, as I before stated, increased confidence in the utility of the bank.

15. There was a further decrease in the amount taken by Indians returning to their country, the average being reduced from 30*l.* to 24*l.* per Indian.

16. Declared investments in the Colony were not so extensive as during the previous year; this falling off may in some measure be accounted for by an increase under the head of "Miscellaneous," which includes various objects, such as marriages, feasts, &c., and the placing of money on more advantageous terms than those allowed by the bank.

17. In October last ten accounts of Indians, amounting to 264*l.*, were withdrawn on one day, a sort of panic having manifested itself among that class, who appeared to have been persuaded by some ill-disposed persons that their deposits were no longer safe now that the war was progressing unfavourably with the French, and therefore advised them to withdraw their savings. By promptly paying them their respective deposits, without requiring the usual notice of seven days to withdraw, this momentary panic appears to have at once subsided, for no more demands were made upon the same grounds; and some of them who withdrew their deposits, a few days afterwards replaced them.

18. This feeling of distrust commenced a few days previously in the Grand Port district, where seven depositors withdrew 294*l.*, on the same grounds, from the branch bank at Mahebourg.

19. The Indian population is at all times suspicious, and is easily misled by ill-disposed persons.

20. The mutations, as regards the general population, show a noticeable decrease in investments and for commercial purposes, also in the number of successions the bank has had to regulate, there appears a large increase in the Miscellaneous; but there were no demands on account of epidemic fever, a most favourable circumstance, and there were but two demands on the same score on the part of Indians.

21. Appendix No. 4 gives in detail the number of the several class of depositors belonging to the general and Indian population who held deposits at the end of the year.

22. As regards the Indian population, it shows a decrease in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited, as follows:—

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Agricultural labourers - - -	90	2,925
Artisans and mechanics - - -	258	4,888
Children - - -	9	620
Giving a total of - - -	357	£8,428

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The decrease is fully covered by an increase under the head of "Miscellaneous," but in number 445 and in amount 9,162*l.*, giving on the whole an increase of 100 in number and 1,444*l.* in amount.

23. General population also shows the following decrease:—

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Agricultural labourers - - -	15	964
Artisans and mechanics - - -	72	888
Servants - - - - -	15	887
Soldiers and their wives - - -	5	386
Government servants - - -	12	136
Railways - - - - -	4	890
Giving a total of - - -	123	£4,046

and an increase under the following heads:—

	Number.	Amount.
		£
Children - - - - -	108	4,301
Police - - - - -	13	586
Municipality - - - - -	8	214
Societies - - - - -	10	35
Miscellaneous - - - - -	344	7,808
Giving a total increase of - - -	483	£12,944

It is satisfactory to be able to point out a further increase of 4,301*l.* for the benefit of children.

Appendix No. 5 refers to the operations of the branch banks.

24. I am glad to be able to report that they have on the whole shown improvement during the past year. On comparing the present statements with that of the preceding year it will be seen that there was a further increase of 48 in the number of new accounts opened and of 2,802*l.* in the amount of the sums deposited by all classes.

25. The principal increase was in the Grand Port, Savanne, Plaines Wilhems and Moka districts; a moderate increase in the Flacq and Black River districts, and a falling off in the Rivière du Rempart and Pamplemousses districts.

26. All the branch banks, except the Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, show an increase in the number of Indian depositors and the aggregate amount paid by them.

27. It is highly desirable as regards this class that the increase should continue, and thus prevent them, as much as possible, from absenting themselves from labour on visiting Port Louis. It would also have the effect of relieving the Central Bank which, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week, is in general crowded with applicants, chiefly Indians from the districts, causing many of them to be detained for some time before their turn arrives to satisfy their wants. In some instances, when they are numerous, many are obliged to leave without being attended to, notwithstanding the

bank was kept open for nearly an hour later than the time appointed, in order to accommodate them and not oblige them to attend the next day.

28. This state of things arises in some measure from the difficulty I have experienced in overcoming the objection the Indians entertain towards the district banks. Many of them appear to be under an erroneous impression, that their savings are safer and more satisfactorily accounted for at the Central Bank.

29. Appendices Nos. 6 and 7 refer to the distribution and fluctuation in the classes of depositors and the amount of deposits which stood to the credit of each class at the end of the year; being of themselves sufficiently explanatory, call for no observation.

I have, &c.,

Governor, the Hon.
A. H. Gordon, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. C. BROWNRIGG,
Acting Manager.

MAURITIUS.

Enclosure 6 in No. 4.

Enclosure 6
in No. 4.

REPORT on the STATE of EDUCATION in the GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
of MAURITIUS for the year 1870.

SIR,

Schools' Office, Dec. 23, 1870.

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report on the operations of the Schools' Department for the year 1870.

2. This Report deals with Government schools exclusively, and is entirely distinct from the Report required by law under conditions of Ord. VI. of 1856 on the working of schools assisted by annual grant from the Colonial Treasury, to be laid before the Governor in Executive Council before the 31st of March in each year.

3. Beyond a passing reference, therefore, this document will not discuss or touch upon denominational education.

4. Our thanks are due to the Giver of all Good that the Department has been enabled during the past year to carry on its important work without any serious hindrance from the epidemic fever, which for so long has paralyzed every branch of the public service.

5. The obituary for the year contains two deaths, that of Mrs. Avise, of Terre Rouge, a young schoolmistress of promise, and that of Mr. Charles Bell, for many years a faithful and painstaking master.

It is due also to the memory of one whom death, only a few weeks since, withdrew from the stage of an active and useful existence, that I should not omit to acknowledge the services rendered by the deceased to popular education in this Colony.

As President for some years of the Council of Education, his sound judgment, his patriotism, and his philanthropy found a congenial sphere for their development; and when the weightier duties of a legislator were exchanged for the less conspicuous functions of the district magistrate of Savanne, the village school of Souillac found in Sir Gabriel Fropier both a patron and a friend. On the

Introduction.

Nature of
present report.

Denomina-
tional schools
not discussed.
No serious
interruption
to school work.

Deaths and
absentees.

MAURITIUS. list of absentees stand the names of Mr. George Clark and Miss Clark.

Staff. 6. The teaching staff at present comprises:—

47 Masters.
25 Mistresses.
18 Male or female assistants.
79 Monitors and monitresses.
4 Teachers in training.

Total - - 173

Number of schools in operation.

7. There are in operation for the general population 29 schools, and for the Indians exclusively, 16. Eight are for boys, seven for girls, and thirty-seven are of a mixed character.

The annexed Table exhibits their topographical distribution.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION of SCHOOLS.

Topographical distribution of schools.

District.	Kind of School.			No. under instruction in same on Nov. 30th.*
	Separate Boys'.	Separate Girls'.	Mixed.	
Port Louis - - -	5	4	4	1,821
Pamplemousses - - -	1	1	10	719
Rivière du Rempart - - -	—	—	4	216
Flacq - - -	1	1	5	507
Black River - - -	—	—	1	77
Moka - - -	—	—	2	157
Plaines Wilhems - - -	—	—	4	332
Grand Port - - -	1	1	4	415
Savanne - - -	—	—	2	162
Rodrigues - - -	—	—	1	44
	8	7	37	4,470

* Exclusive of children in the Orphan Asylum and Government Reformatory.

Number on roll.

8. The number of pupils on roll is shown by the above statement to have been, on November 30th, 4,470, of whom 3,314 were boys, and 1,156 were girls.

Increase per cent.

9. Compared with the returns for the corresponding date of 1869, the total exhibits an increase of 465 pupils, or 11·6 per cent. (See Schedule A.)†

Attendance.

10. The minimum attendance for any one month of the year was in January: the minimum occurred in October. In January the registers stood at 3,543, and rose in October to 4,589.

11. Annexed will be found a tabulated statement (vide Schedule B), showing the monthly numerical strength of schools, both Creole and Indian, for the entire year.

Schools centesimally grouped.

12. It will be observed from the above tabulation that there are 34 schools containing less than one hundred scholars; 5 number between one hundred and two hundred; 3 between two hundred and three hundred; 2 register from three hundred to four hundred; 0 stand between four hundred and five hundred, and 1 only is over five hundred.

† The Schedules referred to in this Report are not printed.

13. Of the general good conduct of the present scholars ample testimony is at hand, and it is with the utmost satisfaction that I am enabled to point to many an old pupil now passing from boyhood to manhood as an example of integrity and worth.

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Conduct of pupils.

14. The Government schools are all organized upon one common basis, which renders the transfer of a teacher from one locality to another of no serious moment either to himself or the school, inasmuch as he finds in his new sphere of duty the same books, the same classification, and the same apparatus as he leaves behind him.

Organization.

15. A deficiency in the annual supply of school materials has until within the last six months been severely felt. The best has been done with the means at the disposal of the Surveyor-General during the past year, and my acknowledgments are due to that gentleman and others of his Department for the alacrity which they have shown to meet the demands made on their time and skill. Several projected new schools will require fittings by the end of January; I have therefore felt it incumbent on me, in the interest of education, to ask that a small portion of the savings of the Department, husbanded by strict economy from the current year's vote, may be assigned to the furnishing with necessary apparatus of the schools in question.

Deficiency in supply of school fittings.

16. Since the 1st of August, 1,815 children have been presented for examination under the triple test of reading, writing, and arithmetic, after the model of the English Revised Code, which in 1866 was adapted to meet the educational exigencies of this Colony. As stated in a former Report, the leading feature of the Revised Code is that every child under instruction is required to pass successively, year by year, through certain prescribed grades of attainment, ranging from the mere rudiments of knowledge to the highest state of proficiency to which it is possible for an ordinary scholar to attain.

Annual grade examinations.

17. The number of distinct presentations amounted to 5,446; the passes to 4,637; or 85.1 per cent. on the number examined.

19. In the Appendix (Schedule C) will be found a Table affording full particulars on the individual merit of each school or department of school examined. Arithmetic does not figure so well as could be desired, and teachers will have to bestow more attention on this subject in future in order that it may stand on a par with other branches of instruction.

Arithmetical knowledge.

20. It is also too clearly apparent that the English does not as yet occupy that position on the programme which its importance merits.

English language.

Every effort must therefore be put forth for the accomplishment of this result.

Teachers should also bear in mind that the chief end which one of Her Majesty's Ministers had in view in the establishment of Government schools was to render the natives of the Colony familiar with the English tongue.

Earl Grey, in a Despatch dated November, 1846, commenting on the corrupt and unintelligible dialects spoken by the lower Creole and Indian population of Mauritius, quoted this very defect as furnishing "an important evidence of the necessity of establishing schools in "which the children of these classes might acquire a knowledge of "the English language."

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Injury to
schools by
masters
having to
serve as
jurymen.

Remedy
suggested.

21. Perhaps no department of the service experiences so great an inconvenience from interruptions during the assize terms, by the withdrawal of the masters from their posts as jurymen, than this; and I can but view the trouble to which they are so frequently put—apart from the injurious effect to the discipline of large schools by the master's absence—as in some degree a just retribution for the neglect in bygone days of employing the French language in preference to English, as the vehicle for class instruction.

22. It would tend very materially to remedy the defect now under discussion, were the following points more strictly attended to by schoolmasters and schoolmistresses generally:—

1. To insist upon the pupils making known their wants and wishes in English;

2. To encourage short daily conversations between class and class;

3. To recommend for employment as monitor or monitress, no scholar who cannot converse freely in English;

4. To be present with and assist the monitors and monitresses in the preparation of all English lessons before given to the class; and

5. To make the language a matter of personal study for themselves.

These means employed, the English tongue will soon occupy in the affections of the rising generation that position which it reasonably claims from a race in the full enjoyment of British rights and freedom.

Trained
teachers.

23. Of the seven schoolmasters and five schoolmistresses introduced from England between the years 1860-64, two masters and two mistresses only remain in the Department.

To encourage native enterprise and with a view to economy, vacancies created by those who have resigned or left the Island have been filled up by teachers born and trained in the Colony.

Maturer experience, however, seems to point to such a measure as at least inexpedient, and the foregoing observations tend to very materially strengthen my conviction that it is highly desirable to renovate the teaching staff from time to time by the further introduction of trained teachers from home.

New schools.

24. Three new schools for the general population have been established since January last with satisfactory results; one at Rivière des Anguilles; another at Riche Terre, upon the petition of the inhabitants; and a third at Nouvelle Découverte.

Rival schools
supported at
Government
cost.

25. Government teachers in some places complain, and I believe not without good reason, of the unwholesome rivalry which exists between their own and the denominational (or as they are more commonly styled) Grant-in-Aid Schools; and they cite ample testimony in support of the views enunciated by the majority of the Civil Commissioners in their report of last year with respect to the future allotment of grants. The paragraph runs as follows:—

“They (the Commissioners) would recommend as regards grants in aid * * * that grants should be refused in all cases where the school applying is placed in such a locality as may cause it to become in any way a rival school to any Government school now existing, or which Government hereafter may think fit to institute.”

—Report C. S. Commission, page 8, par. 35, September 16th, 1869.

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26. The institutions known under the name of the Indian Orphan Asylum, the Government Reformatory, and the Barkly Asylum, Beau Bassin, are separately reported on by their respective Directors; I shall therefore confine my observations to the Educational branch of each, respectively.

Institutions
other than
Government
schools.

27. *Government Reformatory, L'Asyle.*—The number of boys under instruction at the present time is 277, half of whom attend school on every alternate day, whilst the other half are occupied at field labour or their respective trades. Such as are unable, from the nature of their employment, to avail themselves of the day school, are expected to attend the evening class.

The day school is taught by three promising young men, two of whom add to their other qualifications some knowledge of a trade. Mr. Evans, the resident officer in charge of the institution, reports favourably of their assiduity and general good conduct.

Several of the most proficient boys have recently left the reformatory. There are still remaining a fair proportion who are beginning to read English with ease, and to translate into Creole or into one of the Indian vernaculars, the principal words in a sentence. They also reply readily to questions put to them on common things and occurrences. Before long, most of the pupils of the first class will have mastered the four simple rules of arithmetic, three of which they handle already with tolerable accuracy. The first, second, and third classes, acquitted themselves very creditably at my last inspection in mental arithmetic and tables.

The Creole patois is the dominant tongue, a large proportion of the boys having been born in the Colony. Many of the others left India so young as to know little or nothing of their native language.

The hand-writing of the whole school, if viewed progressively, is very good. In writing from dictation in English, the spelling, as might be expected, is almost purely phonetic. This fault is not peculiar to the Reformatory School. A singing class has been established since my last Report, and a harmonium added to the school-room.

The daily lessons open by a recital of the Lord's Prayer in Tamil, Bengalee, and English.

The hours of instruction are from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. There is no school on Saturday, and Sunday is a day of rest. The furniture, consisting of 14 parallel desks, is of the best pattern and make; but there is insufficient room for properly grouping them.

The organization therefore must necessarily, to a certain extent, be defective until better accommodation can be provided.

So far as I have been able to gather from the official records and from accounts received from time to time on the spot, I believe the moral tone of the pupils would compare very creditably with any other institution carried on under like circumstances.

Drawn as the inmates are from the lowest stratum of society; injured, as most of them have been, to hardships from their birth, and rendered obdurate by frequent contact with vice, I can only ascribe the improved and improving character of the boys, taken as a whole, to the hand of Divine Providence directing and crowning, with no

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mean measure of success, the philanthropic efforts of the promoters of the reformatory scheme.

28. *Orphan Asylum*.—The present year being the first in which the pupils were examined under the provisions of the Revised Code, I am unable to furnish any numerical comparison between this and former years. Judging, however, from the results of 1869 obtained under the old process, "steady progress" throughout the entire educational establishment seems to me to be the only and fair verdict which could be given.

The want of a preparatory branch for the infants exclusively must be sorely felt, as, under existing circumstances, the youngest children have to be drafted into the juvenile schools without any of that previous training which infant schools alone are capable of giving.

29. *Barkly Asylum*.—I applied the grade test (as adopted in the Government schools) to the upper division of the Poor Law Asylum schools for the first time in October last. There passed in reading 29, writing 29, arithmetic 29, or 85·3 per cent. as compared with the number presented. This result is the more creditable, as the classes were examined without any previous notice.

The state of the infant branch is also highly satisfactory, and promises much for the future prosperity of the juvenile branch, the one being the nursery and preparatory school for the other.

The attendance (as shown by the registers) is far less fluctuating than it was formerly. This, I presume, is attributable alike to the improved health of the children and the result of discipline.

The children are respectful in manner, clean in personal appearance, and wear a cheerful look.

The school-rooms are amply supplied with school requisites, the pictorial lesson cards being invaluable.

The elder girls belonging to the Industrial school attend the classes for a part of the day, i. e. after their manual duties are over. The combination of intellectual with industrial employment for girls whose future a few months ago could only be regarded as one of useless inactivity at best, is a most important step in the social condition of this institution.

There are few persons to be found who would enter so zealously into her work as Miss Lawrence, the present directress, and results such as characterize this lady's labours are by no means common.

New Normal
school.

30. The Upper Government Normal School, opened in February last, has proved thus far a complete success. This institution (if I may be allowed to compare small things with great) constitutes a kind of University for the more advanced scholars of all Government schools. The programme of instruction is high, and pupils are only admitted upon competitive examination. The number is limited to one hundred.

31. The teaching staff is composed of a head master, an assistant master, and four students in training. Lectures are delivered fortnightly, to which all teachers who can avail themselves of the privilege are invited.

Prizes.

32. The children's prizes, at one time so numerous as to destroy the ends which they were originally meant to serve, have now been reduced to a minimum.

Parents and pupils must, at least until better times come, look for rewards to the boys in the more substantial forms of the two scholarships to be annually competed for by the most proficient scholars of the Government schools.

33. These exhibitions, tenable for three years, and of the annual value of 10% each, owe their creation to the deep interest which our late esteemed Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, took in elementary education.

The results of the first examination, which was held during the early part of the present month, are set forth in the Appendix. (Sch. D.)

34. The conditions of competition were :—

(a). That the candidate had been a pupil of a Government school for the two years immediately preceding the examination.

(b). That he had been taught only during the usual school hours.

(c). That he had not completed the sixteenth year of his age on the day appointed for the entry of the names of the candidates.

35. It will probably prove advisable to reduce the age for candidates one year, at future examinations.

36. The Schools' Committee have held eight sittings during the past year under the presidency of the Honourable W. M. Anderson and under the Honourable F. M. Dick, successively Vice-Presidents of the Council of Education. To every member of the Board my best thanks are due for the willing co-operation and advice accorded in the administration of so large and so important a Department.

37. The two Hindoostanee schools of Port Louis no longer exist as distinct institutions, but the services of one teacher have been retained, and this officer now attends the town schools in rotation for the purpose of imparting instruction to the Lascar pupils in their own tongue.

38. As an experimental measure, and one which promises to be a successful arrangement, schools lying within municipal limits commence duty at 7 A.M. from October 1st, to March 31st; and at 8 A.M. from April 1st, to September 30th. The concurrent testimony of the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses goes to prove that more real work is got through with less fatigue to all concerned, whilst by the dismissal of the pupils before the sultry hours of the day set in, they become less liable to the attacks of fever and other malarial concomitants to which closely-packed numbers are known to be susceptible.

39. There has been a great improvement in needlework during the last few years, and prizes for this branch will not be discontinued. It is purposed to await the Exhibition, annually held under the auspices of the Society of Arts and Sciences, for the usual award for productions of this nature. Hitherto Government schools have rarely exhibited their needlework publicly, under the impression that fancy articles alone stood any chance of a prize.

The adjudicators last year, however, paid more than usual attention to this branch of industry, and I have the assurance that articles classified under the head of plain sewing, embracing shirts, vests, and other useful articles of apparel, will henceforth receive due consideration.

After the Industrial Exhibition is over, the articles will again be exposed for inspection, and a committee of ladies, as in former years,

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Two annual exhibitions of 10% each.

Conditions of competition.

Age of candidates at future examinations. Schools' Committee.

Hindoostanee schools.

Change in hours in instruction.

Needlework.

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Schoolmasters' reports for year 1870.

Western suburb, Port Louis.

will recommend the best specimens for the award of additional prizes at the hands of Government.

40. It would swell the present record beyond ordinary limits, were I to embody in it the very interesting Reports recently received from the masters on the working of their respective schools during the past twelve months.

I shall restrict myself, therefore, to a few extracts.

41. Beginning with the Western suburb school, Port Louis, Mr. Dyas reports in substance as follows:—

Since the death of Bishop Hatchard no clergyman of the Church of England has been able to attend my school for the purpose of imparting even the rudiments of the Christian religion to the Protestant children. Fifty-nine Roman Catholic children have been under orders to attend the Church of the Immaculate Conception twice a week for religious instruction during 1870.

Of 396 pupils on books during the month of October, 346 answered the roll-call. Since January 351 children have been admitted or re-admitted and 300 withdrawn, consequent upon one or more of the following causes: 1, repeated attacks of fever; 2, frequent removals to and from the neighbourhood; 3, want of clothes.

As an indication of the indigency which prevails among the pupils, I may mention that upwards of 130 children have lost one or both of their parents. Many possess but one suit of clothes, and when that is worn out the owner remains at home sometimes two or three months before means are obtained to purchase a new suit.

I am happy in being able to add that this institution continues to merit approbation, and to retain its hold upon public esteem. Like other town schools the applications for admission exceed the accommodation afforded, and candidates are admitted by rotation.

Eastern suburb.

42. *Eastern Suburb School.*—This school suffered very seriously during the epidemic. It is at present under the joint management of Mr. Mainty and Mrs. Constance, and promises to regain before long its former high position among town schools.

Central school.

43. *Central School.*—This institution has for many years enjoyed a well-earned reputation, and contains a larger number of pupils than any other school.

Champ-de-Lort.

44. *Champ-de-Lort.*—This school is greatly overcrowded. A proposal to enlarge the present building will, it is hoped, be acceded to, thereby allowing a separation of the sexes, besides providing accommodation for an infant branch. Mr. Casimir and Mrs. Leaper are zealous and painstaking teachers.

Grand River, N.W.

45. *Grand River, N.W.*—A poor, unsatisfactory school. The master, who bears an excellent character, will shortly retire from the service on account of impaired health.

Terre Rouge.

46. *Terre Rouge.*—This school had also much to contend with during the prevalence, and after the abatement, of the fever. It has more recently sustained a serious loss in the death of its school-mistress, Mrs. Avicé.

Pamplemousses.

47. *Pamplemousses.*—Upon the whole a flourishing school. Master is somewhat deficient as a disciplinarian, but in other respects a good teacher. Two large rival schools in the immediate vicinity have rendered unceasing diligence on the part of both master and mistress im-

perative, and they have their reward in the large attendance they ensure. MACRITUS.

48. *Poudre d'Or*.—The master here reports that during the last twenty months, 74 boys and 53 girls have been withdrawn. Of this number, 22 have left to join the two schools assisted by grant in the village, whilst 27 have removed from the district. 18 ex-scholars are known to be following a trade. Of the occupation of 17 other boys and 24 girls nothing is known. Poudre d'Or.

49. *Trou d'Eau Douce*.—This school was opened by way of experiment in October of last year, upon my being informed that many of the fishing population had removed to that locality. Trou d'Eau Douce.

Mr. Nash was, therefore temporarily withdrawn from Grand River, S.E., and placed there. His monthly returns for October, 1869, are as follows:—

October, 1869, on roll 21, in average attendance 15. Fees, 1s. 6d. October, 1869, on roll 102. No. in average attendance, 90. Fees, 2l. 18s. 6d.

The school buildings are very humble and the furniture insufficient. These drawbacks will be remedied in due time.

50. *Grand River, S.E.*—This little school has recently increased in numbers. The population is nevertheless considerably diminished, so that a large school can scarcely be looked for for some time to come. The attendance for the month of November was 42. Grand River, S.E.

51. *Flacq*.—This is a large and important institution, and continues to maintain its good name in public favour. There are on the roll for the present month, 192 boys and 70 girls; exclusive of the Indian branch, which numbers 50 scholars. Flacq.

52. *Grand Bay*.—The schools at Grand Bay and Arsenal still suffer from fluctuations in the attendance, consequent upon the fever, whilst that of Roc-en-Roc, a kind of isolated outpost, is not so numerous attended as could be desired. It will be necessary probably before long to shift the latter school to a more populous locality. Grand Bay.

The families of fishermen are now centralizing about Bai-aux-Tortues, and steps have been taken to convert the Indian school at Pointe-aux-Piments into one for the general population.

53. *Pailles*.—At Pailles the teachers have much to discourage them. Protracted sickness has brought in its train poverty and other evils, all detrimental to educational progress. Pailles.

Of Pailles school Mr. Madge writes:—"My pupils are now the children of parents whose means are so very precarious that they are unable to provide them with both food and clothing, and are often obliged to refuse the latter in order to procure them bread. The absentees are usually such as are absent from sickness themselves, or are detained at home to attend on their sick parents."

54. *Rose Hill*.—This once picturesque hamlet is fast being converted into an Indian village, and the Indian school continues to be well attended and to give satisfaction. Rose Hill.

The Government Creole school in the immediate locality, under the mastership of Mr. Dinnematin, is entitled to commendation. The numerical strength of the school on the 30th November was 140 boys and 60 girls. The greatest number present of these during any month of the year was 184. The average attendance for the year is 140

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nearly. School fees, even in this locality, are obtained with much difficulty, although 19 per cent. of the pupils are admitted free.

Plaine
Magnien.

55. *Plaine Magnien*.—This district, like many others to which the fever has clung so mercilessly, is, I hope, at last recovering from its prostration.

The school, as a consequence, begins to exhibit signs of vitality, and the attendance has been less fluctuating of late.

The girls' branch, through the sad protracted illness of its mistresses, is highly susceptible of improvement both in numbers and efficiency.

L'Escalier.

56. *L'Escalier*.—The school here is comprised of children of the very poorest class, whose parents earn a precarious living by the making of vacoa bags. The attendance is very fair, and the educational condition of the school tolerable.

Rivière des
Anguilles.

57. *Rivière des Anguilles*.—A newly-established school, under young, active teachers. The excellent results of the late grade examination must be attributed to careful classification rather than proficiency, the *presentations* as to grade on the first occasion being left to the discretion of the teachers. The so-called parish school has been closed, that of the Government being found fully able to meet the wants of the locality.

Souillac.

58. *Souillac*.—The establishment of a rival denominational school within a few hundred yards of the Government institution, has not been without its benefit in stimulating the teachers and pupils to unremitting diligence in the discharge of their duties. The only injury sustained by the Department in the establishment of the village free school is the diminution of fees by the withdrawal of several pupils whose parents, unable themselves to judge as to the quality of the instruction given in the respective schools, are only too glad to avail themselves of one in which no payments are exacted, and where the discipline is found to be more agreeable to their domestic habits.

Riche Terre.

59. *Riche Terre*.—This school was only established last April.

A memorial has been received from the inhabitants of Riche Terre soliciting its removal from its present site to the high road. I am by no means certain that much would be gained by the change, but in the event of suitable premises becoming available, the Department will not withhold from the petitioners what may probably turn out to be a better arrangement.

Moka.

60. *Moka*.—This useful little school is quietly doing its work effectually and well.

Mahebourg.

61. *Mahebourg*.—These schools continue to enjoy the reputation which they acquired under Mr. George Clark. Since the departure of Mr. Clark on sick leave, the site has been changed, and the present extensive and commodious premises, comprising four distinct departments of schools, with residences attached, are about to be taken on lease.

The principal direction of this institution is at present confided to Mr. Robert Bell and Mrs. Smith, who are aided by five monitors and three monitresses.

About 200 children are under instruction, of whom 44 are Indians. I find from Mr. Bell's returns, that the highest number at any time during the present year was 133 boys and 60 girls.

It is a testimony to the proficiency of the school to find that no pupil of the first class, and very few of even the lower forms have left to enter any of the other schools, in which Mahebourg abounds. On the contrary, advanced scholars are known to enter the Government school to complete their education. The greater part of those withdrawn since my last Report are following some trade. Respecting the moral tone of the institution, Mr. Bell reports:—

“No child has been dismissed for misconduct during the year. Petty theft, such as pilfering from one another, a thing very common at school, is now nearly unheard of. The smallest article picked up is at once brought to the teacher.

“The children of both sexes (reports Mr. Bell) are regularly sent to their respective places of worship for Catechism on the appointed days, under the charge of one or more monitors. The lessons appointed by the clergy are taught two or three times a week, after school hours, in separate class rooms, by teachers of the respective creeds.

“The privilege accorded to parents of objecting in writing to their children's detention at school or chapel for religious instruction has been availed of by very few.”

The foregoing extracts are, in many respects, highly interesting and suggestive, as will also be found the Report of the head master of the Normal school, which I beg to insert in the Appendix. To the entire staff of teachers my thanks are justly due. Of the fidelity and zeal also of Mr. Bergicourt, the accountant, and of Mr. Bouche-rat, the clerk of the School's Office, in the discharge of their duties, I am happy to renew my testimony. I would desire further to avail myself of the present opportunity of testifying to the efficient aid rendered to the departments by Mr. Walter Henry Ashley, the head master of the Normal school. Having been entrusted with the acting superintendency of the schools, he has acquired a perfect knowledge of their working, and is ever ready to give the Department the benefit of his experience whenever asked to undertake any additional responsibility in the furtherance of education.

In conclusion, it is with sorrow—I could almost say with shame—that I am still obliged to confess how little the Department has been able to accomplish as yet for the Indian population. Estate schools will, it is to be feared, ever be a failure until the law steps in and renders attendance of children at school, for at least a few hours of the day, obligatory.

Some sugar estates literally teem with children under twelve years of age, wild, dirty, and unclad. A supply of rations from the planter is deemed a sufficient recompense to the parents for such as are old enough to be employed in weeding and cleaning the fields, whilst those who are too young to work are allowed to spend the years which should be devoted to instruction, in pilfering and play.

I hesitate to speculate, in a public record of this nature, upon the insignificant percentage of Indians under instruction as compared with the census returns of the Colony. The few found in our Government and assisted schools are mostly the children of tradesmen, airdars, and shopkeepers; rarely from the families of the immigrant

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labourer: and these, the pick of the Colony, are chiefly of the Hindoo type, among whom the grossest ideas of morality prevail.

If such be true of the few under instruction, what a picture must the entire Island reveal, despite all its wealth and natural beauty, when its teeming thousands are known to be subject to none of the great moral influences which education is acknowledged to exert, and whose religious teaching is restricted to a very rare and occasional visit of some missionary attached to the Roman Catholic or English Church.

We have at present only one Reform Institution, and that is of acknowledged worth. Had we one in each district of the Island, I fear they would all be as well attended, though probably less ably and less successfully managed. Reformatories are remedial establishments, and their need is palpable. All this but argues doubly in favour of preventive institutions, such as schools, and the adoption of other organizations of a philanthropic character, having for their aim and end the social and educational improvement of the Indian community settled in Mauritius.

I have, &c.,

Major-Gen. E. S. Smyth,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. COMBER BROWNE,
Superintendent of Government Schools.

ROYAL COLLEGE.

The following is the Address of Mr. BRUCE, the Rector, on the occasion of the distribution of prizes on the 12th instant:—

Before proceeding to give an account of the activity of the Royal College during the past academical year, it is meet and right that I should allude to the successes of recent Laureates of the Royal College, in England.

During the year 1870 Mr. Macdonald, at the Roman Catholic University in Dublin, gained three exhibition prizes; a first prize of 20*l.* in Greek and Latin literature; first prize of the same value in French, and second prize of 15*l.* in sciences.

Mr. Hullard, an exhibition at University College, London, of 30*l.* per annum for two years, and a certificate of honour in chemistry; Mr. Crétin, an exhibition of 20*l.* per annum at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Mr. Hullard and Mr. Crétin have also passed the first B.Sc. examination at the University of London, the latter taking honours in chemistry.

Although the news of these successes did not reach me in time for the Commemoration of last year, they were all gained within a very short time of our Laureates arriving in England, and they seem to show that the students of the Royal College, notwithstanding the serious interruption made by the voyage home, are able, so far as our standard of instruction reaches, to compete honourably with those who have had all the advantages of an education in Europe.

Last year the course of studies pursued in the highest class of the College did not, except in classes, extend greatly beyond the subjects required for matriculation at the University of London; this year

the preparation for that examination has been the work of the second class, while the first class has reached, and in some branches gone considerably beyond, the standard of the B.A. examination. Last year we sent up six candidates for matriculation, two of whom passed in honours and three in the first division. This year we have sent up nine candidates for matriculation, and five or six will be ready for the B.A. examination next week. In order that the annual prizes may be given to the first and second class, in accordance with the report of the University examiners, it is intended in future, as the results of the London examinations do not reach us before December, to hold the annual commemoration and distribution of prizes at Christmas instead of in the month of September.

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The following analysis is not without interest :—

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

MATRICULATION, JUNE, 1870.

Number of Candidates.	Passed.		Second Division.	Rejected.
	Honours.	First Division.		
503	71	167	34	231

Out of which numbers our students passed as follows :—

Number of Candidates.	Passed.		Second Division.	Rejected.
	Honours.	First Division.		
6	2	3	0	1

The candidates who failed, according to the report of the examiners, passed in seven out of the nine subjects in which candidates are required to satisfy the examiners.

Our connection with the University of London is of great advantage to us. These examinations, conducted by independent examiners, furnish a public and impartial guarantee of the reality of our studies; they accustom those students who are to finish their education in England to the English method of examination; they assist us in introducing from time to time the newest and best educational works, and above all, they inspire both professors and students with an enthusiastic determination to exercise all their energies and employ all their resources to produce creditable results.

The papers for the English Scholarship Examination were this year sent from England by a body of professional examiners. Circumstances over which we had no control prevented us from sending the answers back to be valued by the examiners, and it was proposed therefore to invite the Bishop of Mauritius and the Vicar-General to nominate some gentlemen to assist the college authorities in looking over the papers. The death of the Bishop and a ceremonial observ-

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ance of the Catholic Church, coinciding with the time of our examinations, deprived us of the assistance which we hoped to obtain ; but as in the papers sent out the value of every question was assigned by the examiners, the work of looking over the papers was reduced to an almost mechanical operation, and I trust that we have been able, with due impartiality, to assign these important rewards to those who have best merited them.

At the commencement of the present year it was determined to open a modern department of the Royal College, the branches to be taught including one or two of the languages of India. I have always been surprised to observe how little importance is attached to a knowledge of Tamil and Hindostanee, languages spoken by so large a portion of the community ; and in making the present experiment I have been still more surprised to find that many parents seem positively averse to their children acquiring a knowledge of one of the Indian languages. Now it seems to me that a knowledge of the two Indian languages principally spoken in the Colony, is so useful and important an acquisition, that some substantial inducement ought to be held out to those who are willing, by gaining a thorough mastery of these tongues, to fit themselves for positions which men without such a knowledge cannot perfectly or satisfactorily fill. In order to facilitate such arrangements as may have to be made in view of these considerations, I have applied to the Universities of Calcutta and Madras, in order that by affiliation to those institutions we may be able to prosecute our studies in this new department of knowledge with some means of guaranteeing the reality of our progress by the criterion of public examinations conducted by independent examiners. I have been informed that the Senate of Calcutta will probably consent to our association, on terms somewhat similar to those which regulate our connection with the University of London. From the University of Madras I have been informed that arrangements for the affiliation of such institutions as the Royal College of Mauritius are not yet completed, but that in the event of a scheme at present under discussion being carried out, the Senate will accede to our request. These matters are likely to engage the serious attention of the Council of Education during the ensuing year. I have thought it right to allude to them on this occasion, but I am bound to say that for the opinions which I am now expressing, I am personally responsible, some of my colleagues in the Council holding views on this point which differ from my own.

For the rest, the studies of the Royal College have been pursued during the past academical year, according to the programme approved by the Council of Education, with conscientious and untiring industry on the part of my colleagues, and as I trust to the promotion of sound and useful learning among the students. I have only to express a regret, which has I believe frequently been expressed by those interested in educational matters here, and which is, I find, re-echoed by those engaged in similar institutions in other colonies of the empire,—I regret, namely, the abrupt termination which takes place in the education of a great majority of the youth of the Colony, just at the period when the intellect is ripest for study, when the nature and uses of learning have begun to be appreciated, and when the

acquisition of knowledge is beginning to be a work of love rather than a labour of compulsion.

I pass on to the present condition and future prospects of the College school.

Two years ago I exhibited in ample detail the principles of a scheme intended to make of the Royal College not only an institution that should put within easy reach of all to whom such a boon is likely to be acceptable the advantages of the best superior education which the Colony can afford, but also a central impulse controlling the whole region of study between its own classes and the Government primary schools.

The object of that scheme was, briefly, to introduce an uniform system of secondary instruction, by bringing under the influence of the Council of Education, as representing the supreme intelligence of the community, all such free adventurers in education as chose to co-operate with the public educational movement without direct remuneration, but satisfied to submit to a limited control, in the assurance of an equivalent to be gained in the increased confidence which a public guarantee and a public criterion might be expected to secure.

The details of that scheme have been so often and so elaborately discussed that I will not now repeat them; I regret to say that it has been found necessary to abandon for the present at least, and probably for many years, one important part of the proposed plan. I allude to the abolition of the College school. Still adhering to all that I have said on former occasions in favour of the transfer of secondary instruction from a Government institution to free enterprise, as correct in principle, I am anxious to avoid all confusion between the excellence of a principle and its premature or inopportune application.

Last year, at our annual distribution of prizes, I was able to speak of the scheme as working with cheerful promise, and I should have been very glad to be able to report to-day that the promise of the first year's experiment had been fulfilled. But the change which has come over the prospects of the College has been due to two causes.

In the first place, it has become evident that private adventure is not at present able to compete with the endowed institution, and secondly, the confidence of the public, so long withheld from the Royal College, is now to a great extent, I might almost say fully restored. In our endeavours to transfer the work of secondary instruction from the College to a system of associated schools, we relied principally on the support of four of the most important schools in the Colony. But two of the head masters of these institutions have found it to their advantage to abandon free educational enterprise, and to accept appointments at the Royal College. One of these gentlemen was the only head-master whose pupils achieved any considerable success in last year's examinations, and I think therefore that his accession to the Royal College school is a circumstance upon which the College authorities may fairly congratulate themselves and the public. As for the other two schools, one of them sent a large number of candidates to last year's examination, but their want of success has, I fear, discouraged the proprietor, for he has not this

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year repeated the experiment. He still however, I believe, follows the programme of the Council of Education, and I trust next year to see the pupils of his establishment contending in honourable and successful emulation with the pupils of the College school.

The success of the scheme which has been for the last eighteen months under experiment depended, in the first instance, on the heads of private institutions giving evidence, in the public competitive examinations, of their ability to organize a system of private schools in which a parent could be sure of finding every advantage which he could possibly derive from the school at present attached to the Royal College. The result of last year's examination showed that the private adventure schools were not in a position to compete against the Government institution even so high as the very moderate standard of instruction required for the first class of the College school. Again, it was believed that the advantages which might reasonably be expected from successful private schools, and to which I endeavoured to do full justice in my address from this place two years ago, would outweigh, in the estimation of parents, the superiority of organization and greater fixity of principle which distinguish endowments generally. This has not proved to be the case, for notwithstanding the doubts which have surrounded the existence of the College school, our registers show the following statistics:—

NUMBER OF PUPILS ON THE COLLEGE REGISTERS.

July, 1868	-	-	School	-	-	85	} 116
			College	-	-	31	
" 1869	-	-	School	-	-	79	} 132
			College	-	-	53	
" 1870	-	-	School	-	-	95	} 164
			College	-	-	69	
" 1871	-	-	School	-	-	153	} 250
			College	-	-	92	

Our efforts to introduce uniformity of method in secondary instruction were stimulated by the fact that within the last few years the fever has prompted and the railway facilitated emigration from Port Louis to healthier parts of the Island. It became therefore a matter of especial importance to provide the most salubrious parts of the Colony with educational resources; and it was with much regret that we learned that one or two schools, upon which we relied, were unwilling or unable to adopt the system proposed, and to take advantage of the public guarantee afforded by the annual examinations held at the Royal College. Under these circumstances it was important that something should be done to enable such persons as considerations of health had led into the country districts to enjoy the educational benefits which it was the object of the Royal College to bestow on all classes of the community. This seemed all the more desirable inasmuch as the boys likely to take advantage of such a school as it was proposed to establish belong to an influential class, and are likely to hold some day or other important positions in the Colony.

These considerations have led to the establishment of a branch of the Royal College school at Curepipe, the classes of which will follow

precisely the same studies as the classes in Port Louis; while the parallel progress of the two establishments will be secured by monthly examinations conducted by the professors of the Royal College. The Curepipe school will be opened on the 1st September, and the committee look forward to its success with confident hope.

A glance at the results of the general competitive school examinations will show that, although a few candidates from private schools achieved a moderate share of success last year, private enterprise has this year shown no indications of its ability to compete with the Royal College. Instead, therefore, of endeavouring to arrive at uniformity of secondary education through a system of private schools voluntarily submitting to the control of the Council of Education, we must endeavour to reach that end through a system of schools in immediate connection with and directly under the control of the Royal College. Since the Curepipe question has been discussed, the idea of a similar school in another district has already been suggested; and in a word my desire is to make the Royal College school as good a school and as well adapted to the needs of the community, as care and industry, supported by the generous liberality of the Colony, which will, I know not be wanting, can make it, and then to use every endeavour to place within reach of other districts an equally good school. Whether that school be a private enterprise submitting voluntarily but in good faith to the control of the Council of Education, or a Government institution, is a matter of comparatively little importance. On the whole therefore the modification of our plans is merely a modification rendered necessary by local and special circumstances, for the effectual furtherance of the object of which we have never lost sight—namely, the introduction and extension of an uniform system of secondary instruction.

To this record of what has been done for the promotion of secondary instruction, I need now only add that an elementary school has been joined to the previously existing classes, so that children may prepare themselves for the more serious labours of riper years at a very early age.

On the course things have taken during the last two years I look back without regret, and I look forward to the future of this important institution with good hope; with a hope well founded, I believe, in the knowledge that all concerned either in the control of general arrangements, or in carrying on the daily and hourly labours of education, are working with cordial sympathy and united energy in the cause. On my arrival in Mauritius, nearly three years ago, I found the Colony passing through one of those periods of fiery trial which light generations down in honour or dishonour to their children's children. In the great distress which prevailed I was assured on all sides that whatever sacrifices had to be made, whatever painful economies to be effected, no cost would be spared to secure the children of the community the advantages of a really good education. I have endeavoured, to the best of my ability, to do justice to that brave and wise determination.

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Enclosure 7 in No. 4.

Enclosure 7
in No. 4.RETURN of NEW CIVIL CASES before the SUPREME COURT during
the Year 1870.

Actions above 100%.	-	-	-	-	-	-	546
Actions under 100%.	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
Appeals from judgments of magistrates	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Bankruptcy cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Arrangements under the control of the Court	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Cessiones Bonorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	689

RETURN of CRIMINAL CASES tried in the SUPREME COURT
during the Year 1870.

Cases tried at assizes	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
Appeals from convictions of magistrates	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Number of prisoners tried at assizes	-	-	-	-	-	-	96
Number of prisoners tried in appeals from convictions	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
Civil cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	689
Criminal cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	761

(Signed) F. HERCHENRODER,
Registrar.

April 26, 1871.

Enclosure 8
in No. 4.

Enclosure 8 in No. 4.

CRIME REPORT, 1870.

* The Table
not printed.

1. The tabular * statement annexed to this Report will show the number of criminal cases which have been tried before the Court of Assize in this Colony, from the year 1866 to the year 1870 inclusive.

2. The number of cases tried during the year 1870 is rather more than the number tried in 1869, but less than in any of the three years previous to that.

3. It will be observed, however, that the number of accused in 1870 is less than in any of the four years previous; and since 1866 there has been a very considerable decrease in the number of persons tried. This decrease in the number of cases and persons tried during the last two years, I must, as was stated in the Report on Crime of last year, attribute in great measure to the Ordinance, No. 11 of 1869, by which jurisdiction was given to the district magistrates to try certain cases they could not previously have taken cognizance of, as also powers to the

Procureur-General by which he can authorize them to entertain certain other charges. This Ordinance has therefore rendered it unnecessary to bring a great number of cases before the assizes, which previously it was obligatory to do.

No. of Cases and Accused.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
No. of Cases - -	101	68	75	49	55
No. of Accused - -	236	133	152	101	85

As to whether there has been an increase of criminal business before the district Courts corresponding with the decrease before the Court of Assize, I am not in possession of the necessary facts to show, inasmuch as the district magistrates do not forward to the Procureur-General a list of the cases tried before them.

In comparing the number of accused tried at the assizes during the year 1870, with the number tried in 1869, it must also be remembered that during the first-mentioned year the population of the Island has somewhat increased, yet notwithstanding this increase the number of accused brought to trial has decreased.

On 31st December, 1869, the population of the Island was 322,924, and on the 31st December, 1870, 328,633, showing an increase of 5,709. The Indian population during the latter year consisted of 140,283 males to 70,353 females, showing the proportion of males to be 66·7 per cent.

4. The following shows the state of crime with reference to the different districts of the Island, both as regards the number of cases referred for trial at the assizes, and the number of those actually tried:—

1870.

Districts.	No. of Cases sent for trial.	No. of Cases tried.	No. of Cases returned to Magistrate for disposal.	No. of Cases not prosecuted.
Port Louis - - - -	26	13	8	5
Pamplemousses - - - -	24	10	7	6
Flacq - - - - -	16	10	2	4
Black River - - - - -	3	2	0	1
Savanne - - - - -	16	8	4	3
Grand Port - - - - -	6	3	1	1
Rivière du Rempart - - - -	9	4	3	1
Plaines Wilhems - - - - -	8	2	4	2
Moka - - - - -	6	2	2	1
Island of Rodrigues - - - -	1	1	1	0

There were five cases put down for trial, but which were postponed until the present year; and as regarded two accused who were to have been tried, the Crown entered a "Nolle prosequi."

This Table shows that there were 55 cases referred for trial, but which it was decided not to bring to the assizes, 31 of which were sent back on reduced charges to the magistrate; and 24 in which

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the evidence was not considered such as to warrant the cases being prosecuted against the accused.

5. The nationality or race of the offenders tried at the assizes during the past year was as follows:—

Indians	-	-	-	73
Ex-apprentices	-	-	-	6
Arabs	-	-	-	2
Chinese	-	-	-	1
English	-	-	-	1
Americans	-	-	-	2

Making in all 85 accused, 68 of whom were convicted, 15 found not guilty, and two against whom the Crown did not proceed with the prosecution.

6. There were unfortunately several cases of a severe nature tried during the year.

In 1869 there were only five persons found guilty of murder and attempt at murder, and seven of manslaughter and attempt at manslaughter; whereas in 1870 there were no less than seven persons found guilty on the former charges, and ten on the latter, and of those who were convicted for the offences of manslaughter six were put upon their trial for the graver crime.

It cannot be denied that there is a great reluctance on the part of juries in Mauritius to find guilty of murder and attempt of murder. This I can only attribute to a feeling which exists among many of the community regarding the question of capital punishment, for the evidence in the cases above alluded to appeared to bear out fully the charges brought against the accused.

7. In the five cases of murder where the parties were found guilty, they were all, in compliance with the law, sentenced to death, but in the two cases of attempt at murder the sentence was commuted to twenty years' imprisonment with hard labour, and circumstances permitted of the same mercy being extended to three who were convicted of murder. It was, however, considered necessary that the extreme penalty of the law should be inflicted on two others who were found guilty of the crime, and these were accordingly executed.

8. There were also several severe cases of assault, and in eight instances death was the result.

With respect to this class of offence, it is frequently asserted that the continuance of fever among us gives rise to disease of the spleen, and that cases on this account often end seriously which otherwise would not do so. There is no doubt that the Indian population, among whom offences of this description very frequently occur, is not less subject to malarious fever than that of other races, and though not affected by it to the same extent as a year or two ago, when it was so prevalent throughout the Island, there are still constantly cases in which the medical evidence proves a diseased spleen caused by that malady.

9. There were four cases of rape and one of attempt upon chastity, in which five accused were found guilty and two acquitted. In cases of this description, unless the evidence be very conclusive it is difficult to obtain convictions, for the laxity of morals among the lower classes

of the population frequently gives rise to doubts as to the legal guilt of those charged.

10. There were seven cases of burglary, one of highway robbery, one of larceny with violence, and one of domestic larceny tried during the year.

It is perhaps worthy of remark that in this class of cases where Indians are the accused, they are generally of the Madras population; whereas in charges of murder, manslaughter, and other serious assaults the offenders are usually of the Calcutta tribe.

11. There were four cases of arson, in which six accused were charged, four of whom were found guilty and two acquitted.

As regards this offence, I think there can be little doubt but that the Ordinance No. 5 of 1869 has worked beneficially. Previous to its becoming law, twenty years' imprisonment was the minimum punishment which could be inflicted for arson; juries were then most reluctant to find verdicts of guilty; but as this Ordinance has reduced the minimum punishment to four years, there is not the same reason to apprehend that feelings of mercy may override the dictates of justice, or that verdicts warranted by the evidence will not be returned.

12. There was one case of bigamy tried during the year, in which the accused who was convicted of the offence was committed from the island of Rodrigues.

There was one case of fraudulent bankruptcy, one of embezzlement, one of forgery, and one of swindling brought to trial, in all of which convictions were obtained.

13. In one case a young boy was found guilty of placing a stone on the railway lines, and he was sentenced by the presiding judge to three years' detention at the Reformatory.

14. As I have already mentioned in this Report, charges of a serious nature have been more numerous during 1870 than during 1869, or even during any of the three previous years.

It is difficult to say what has caused the increase of such offences, but the considerable excess of the male to the female population among the Indians, may perhaps be considered as a reason for the frequency of certain crimes.

Cases of murder and manslaughter are sometimes the result of robbery and plunder, but far oftener originate from causes of jealousy or disputes about women among the Indians. There is a common custom of selling their female children first to one man and afterwards to another, according to the bargains they can make.

This necessarily gives rise to much quarrelling and jealousy; and the men, often exasperated at the unfaithfulness of the women, either inflict upon them a fatal blow, or at times take their revenge upon others whom they may consider the cause of their wrong.

15. The cases tried at the assizes during the past year have been of the usual description, and with the exception of the observations above made, there is nothing which calls for any particular notice on my part.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) G. B. COLIN,
Procureur-General.

June 26, 1871.

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Enclosure 9 in No. 4.

Enclosure 9
in No. 4.

REPORT of the ADMINISTRATION of the POOR LAW during the six months ending 31st December, 1870.

Being called upon to submit a Report on the working of the Poor Law during the latter half of the year 1870, in order that the following Annual Report of the Poor Law Commission may have reference to the whole of the year 1871, and may pass in review the whole of the period for which the last estimates of revenue and expenditure were framed by the Commission, I have the honour to present the following remarks:—

2. Having merely to establish a connecting link between the last Annual Report and the next one, I shall confine my observations to a bare exposition of the financial working of the institution on the one hand, and, on the other, to a summary recapitulation of the paupers admitted or discharged, of those who died, and of the numbers remaining in the various Poor Law Establishments at the close of the year 1870.

3. The revenue of the Commission during the six months under review amounted to 14,396*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*, and came from the following sources:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Customs - - - - -	10,716	2	4
2. Extra duty on colonial spirits - - -	3,441	8	8
3. Poor rates due to former Poor Relief Boards	16	10	0
4. Miscellaneous receipts (treatment of private patients, sale of gunnies, &c.) - -	222	13	4½

4. The total expenditure amounted to 15,561*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*, exceeding the half-yearly revenue by 1,164*l.* 14*s.* 2½*d.*; but, besides the current expenses, the payments included the whole of the balance due to the Savings Bank. The loan received from that establishment in 1869 has thus been entirely refunded.

5. The balances at the end of the year stood as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1. In hands of Colonial Treasurer - - - -	349	0	0½
2. „ President of Poor Law Commission	400	0	0
Total - - - - -	£749	0	0½

* Not printed.

6. The details of the expenditure are given in the Statement A,* herewith submitted.

† Not printed.

7. The admissions, discharges, and deaths of pauper patients in the Poor Law hospitals and dispensaries, and the numbers remaining at the end of the year, are shown in Statement B.†

8. The numbers remaining under treatment, compared to those reported as being in the hospitals and dispensaries on the 30th June previous, were as follows:—

HOSPITALS.

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	June 30, 1870.	December 31, 1870.
Port Louis - - -	29	12
Pamplemousses - - -	84	57
Flacq - - -	12	22
Rivière du Rempart - - -	5	5
Black River - - -	—	—
Plaines Wilhoms - - -	82	45
Moka - - -	—	—
Grand Port - - -	61	39
Savanne - - -	12	20

DISPENSARIES.

	June 30, 1870.	December 31, 1870.
Port Louis - - -	276	3
Pamplemousses - - -	21	26
Flacq - - -	101	49
Rivière du Rempart - - -	8	6
Black River - - -	18	20
Plaines Wilhoms - - -	11	24
Moka - - -	45	21
Grand Port - - -	396	195
Savanne - - -	99	1

9. 466 paupers were receiving in-door relief at the Barkly Asylum at the end of the year. The statement marked C* shows how they were distributed, and establishes comparisons with the numbers exhibited by the Report for the year 1869. In the total number there was a decrease of 19; but since the beginning of this year the admissions have raised the total above 500: the present number of inmates is 522. * Not printed.

10. The total mortality of the Asylum in the half-year now reviewed was 88; in the previous six months it had amounted to 120.

11. The general state of health of the inmates at the close of the year was very satisfactory, especially with regard to the children, who were entirely free from sickness; there was not a single case amongst them requiring hospital treatment. The very small proportion of sick amongst the children here, compared to the large number of admissions into the hospital of the Powder Mills Asylum, suggests some inquiry into the causes of the difference.

12. That inquiry the Commissioners propose to make before the end of the present year, so that they may be able to explain its results in their next Annual Report, in which they will also offer their opinion on the operation of the present system of poor relief, and suggest such changes therein as may to them seem desirable.

(Signed) H. N. D. BEYTS,
President of the Poor Law Commission.

September 13, 1871.

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Enclosure 10 in No. 4.

Enclosure 10
in No. 4.

ANNUAL REPORT on the LEGISLATION of the Year 1870.

The laws promulgated in the Colony during the year 1870, show that marked attention was given by the authorities to the consideration of matters connected with the public health, on which subject no less than fifteen laws of divers classes were introduced.

The most important of these measures was the Ordinance No. 11, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the laws relating to the Public Health."

The object of this Ordinance was twofold. First, to provide a broad scheme for the proper administration of the laws which relate to the public health; and secondly, to create a fund which would enable the authorities entrusted with the administration of such laws to carry into execution the plans which would be judged the best and most practical to secure the contemplated ends.

Very divergent opinions and many conflicting notions as to the best mode of operating had to be considered and weighed, and ultimately this Ordinance was passed upon the principle that a Board, named the General Board of Health, should have practically the supreme control of the sanitary law; and it is evident that very large powers were thus vested in a body appointed by the Chief of the Executive certainly, but, once appointed, acting in a great measure independently of the Executive.

My own view, if it had fallen to my lot to bring in the Ordinance, instead of taking it up when some of the most important principles involved in its enactments had already been carried, would have been to leave in the hands of the Governor in Executive Council all the powers entrusted to the General Board of Health, the details of execution being left to men appointed for the purpose in every district, and certainly to dispense with local Boards, which had been tried, and had failed deplorably.

I conceive that a medical officer deprived of private practice, as contemplated for the future by the Ordinance, but in whom would have been united the powers at present held by divers medical practitioners, all however engaged in private practice, might have been adopted at once, and that medical men would have been for each district the chief sanitary executive officers under the control and regulation of the Governor in Council; the loss to the Treasury, which might have been met out of the revenue raised by the sanitary tax, would have been of no great amount, and would naturally dwindle by degrees. Of this scheme it is unnecessary to say more, since, after all, the whole tenor of the Ordinance went to show that the General Board of Health was intended to have the supervision of the whole machinery; and although stoutly and strongly opposed, the principle was accepted by the majority of the Council.

The second point was whether the revenue should be raised by direct or indirect taxation.

The plan proposed and ultimately carried was, that a capitation tax of four shillings per annum should be levied, but the tax as to householders, proprietors, and others was supposed to increase.

Whilst the Ordinance was before the Board, sections were added to meet that class of persons who, although wealthy, were neither proprietors of lands or houses nor pay rent, and yet do not receive a fixed salary or remuneration, a class though not numerous, still probably more numerous than might be *primâ facie* supposed. In fact, the proposed scheme was a kind of concentration of a capitation and income tax, resting upon the double standard of salary and locative value of premises held or occupied.

The plan, if carried out in its entirety, would, I believe, in spite of evasions, which must almost invariably be expected, have produced a fund sufficient, if well handled and properly applied, to meet the sanitary exigencies of the Colony. †

The question whether direct or indirect taxation would be resorted to had thus been resolved by the Ordinance in favour of direct taxation, not that the circumstances of the Colony make the application of indirect taxation in its ultimate results so burdensome as it may be in Europe, but because in this case it was right that all should contribute to a scheme calculated to benefit all, the poor still more than the rich—the lower classes, usually less provident and more ignorant, still more than the higher classes.

But as this Ordinance has not, in the shape it was issued, received the sanction of Her Majesty, and as it is possible that the subject may before long be again brought forward with certain additions or modifications considered by his Lordship to be just and reasonable, I believe it is unnecessary to do more than (as I have done) give the sketch of its objects, of its tendency, and the main principle which it contained.

In the interest of public health, advantage was taken of the opportunity of the introduction of a draft law, which had been demanded by the agricultural community, for exempting from Custom dues substances generally used as deodorizing disinfectants; it being considered expedient to encourage the importation of these articles. The Act by which this twofold object was effected is the Ordinance No. 8, intituled "An Ordinance to abolish the duties of Customs upon substances imported into Mauritius for agricultural and sanitary purposes."

A proper check was raised to the importation of damaged rice and other grain and alimentary substances, by sanitary regulations framed by the General Board of Health, and promulgated by Proclamation No. 28, (for which Proclamation No. 33 was afterwards substituted). In virtue of this law, certain alimentary substances are examined at the time of importation by a competent Government officer and if found to be damaged or otherwise unwholesome, they are rendered unfit for food by deodorization or artificial deterioration. These measures are of importance in a place like Mauritius, where rice may be said to be the principal article of food of nine-tenths of the population.

By Proclamations Nos. 8 and 29, divers localities in the rural districts of the Island were declared to be villages within the meaning of the Sanitary Ordinance, No. 18 of 1860, a formality necessary to bring those places within the scope of certain parts of the law on public health, and especially to compel the inhabitants to comply with the

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sections concerning drains, privies, &c. ; and regulations more stringent and effective than those formerly in force, relative to the night-soil service of the town of Port Louis, were brought into operation by the Proclamation No. 35.

In July, 1870, the 20th Regiment arrived at Mauritius, having measles prevalent among the children, and as a measure of precaution the new comers were placed in quarantine on shore at "Tonnelier's Island" and "Cannonier's Point." The Proclamations Nos. 15 and 16 and 24 constituted those places into temporary quarantine stations.

The refusal of a passenger who had undergone quarantine to reimburse to the Government the cost of rations supplied to him during his sequestration, brought about the Proclamation No. 17, which removes all doubt as to the liability of persons in such cases. It also deals with the obligation of masters of vessels in quarantine to lodge and provide food for the sanitary guards placed on board, to ensure a strict compliance with the law.

The Proclamations Nos. 36, 37, 38 and 39, as well as the measures published by the Government notice No. 184 of 1st December, 1870, gave a more effectual application to our quarantine laws in general ; but their special aim was to prevent the introduction of cholera from Madagascar by means of vessels trading regularly between that country and Mauritius.

Such is the long list of laws introduced on the subject of public health in the course of last year, and I may add that except the Ordinance No. 11, which has not yet come into operation, much good has certainly been done and much evil probably avoided by their means.

An amendment of some importance was made on our criminal law by the Ordinance No 15, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the laws relating to the consequences of Penal Judgments."

The Colonial penal code provided as one of its punishments, awardable even for comparatively minor offences, interdiction for life, or for a term, of civic, civil, and family rights ; and although in practice offenders were not sentenced by the Courts to these disabilities, they were sometimes incurred under the civic code, which also recognized civil death.

This system resulted in most cases in inconvenience and loss, not upon the criminal himself, but upon his innocent wife and family.

The enactment now under notice abolishes civil death, and only admits of the offender being condemned to civic, civil, or family disability in cases of serious crime, and when the judge shall make it part of the sentence. Due provision is made for the administration, by the persons best qualified for the task, of the property of convicts, as also the property of persons who, having failed to surrender to justice have been outlawed, and who, like convicts, are unable to watch over their own interests in person.

Ordinance No. 9, intituled "An Ordinance to authorize the Governor in Executive Council to appoint Provisional Judges of the Supreme Court in certain cases of lawful Recusation."

This law was brought before the Council of Government pursuant

to directions received from the Secretary of State, that effect should be given to one of the recommendations of the special committee of the Legislative Council with regard to the mode of replacing judges of the Supreme Court whenever, by the lawful recusation of one or more of them, the legal quorum of judges could not be obtained.

Ordinance No. 12, intituled "An Ordinance to punish the enticing
"away and harbouring of wives of Indian immigrants."

The law which formerly punished offences of this nature was the Ordinance No. 3 of 1856, which also regulated the civic status of married immigrants coming to Mauritius; and as it was intended to repeal that Ordinance by a consolidated law on civil status, the Ordinance No. 12 was passed to keep in force certain provisions which could not properly be included in the law on civil status. Advantage was taken of this occasion to remedy these provisions on certain points which experience had indicated, the principal of which were that the costly intervention of the Supreme Court in such matters was rendered unnecessary by giving the district magistrates jurisdiction therein, and that all natives of India, whether coming to Mauritius at their own expense as passengers, or being introduced here under the immigration laws, should benefit by the Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 4, intituled "An Ordinance to authorize the levying
"of dues on vessels passing the Great Basses Lighthouse, and
"Little Basses Light-ship, Ceylon;" and

Ordinance No. 14, intituled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance
"No. 4 of 1870, intituled 'An Ordinance to authorize the
"levying of dues on vessels passing the Great Basses Light-
"house and Little Basses Light-ship.'"

By a Royal Order in Council of November 11th, 1869, the dues payable by certain vessels on behalf of the light-ship at the Little Basses Rock, Ceylon, were abolished, and an increased rate of charges was made leviable to meet the joint expenses of that light-ship and of a lighthouse which had recently been erected on the Great Basses Rock, Ceylon.

The Ordinance No. 4 was passed to legalize the collection of those dues in Mauritius, and the Ordinance No. 14 was enacted out of a direction received from the Secretary of State, that all ships of war or of state, whether belonging to Her Majesty or to any foreign country, should be exempted from the payment of such dues.

Ordinance No. 3, intituled "An Ordinance to extend the jurisdic-
"tion of the district magistrates in Mauritius and its dependen-
"cies in matters relating to Acts of Parliament extending to this
"Colony."

Doubts have been raised as to whether in point of law the district magistrates of the Colony were individually entitled to entertain charges brought before them for breaches of Imperial Statutes, whereby it was provided that the penalties thereunder were to be recovered before one or more Justices of the Peace, as it was possible that the ends of justice might be defeated on these grounds in any

case based on the Mutiny or Passenger Acts or other Statutes liable to be invoked in the Colony, the Ordinance No. 3 was brought in to give to each district magistrate power to exercise, in the application of any Act of Parliament in force in Mauritius, the jurisdiction assigned to one or more Justices of the Peace.

Ordinance No. 1, intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the requirements of the Roman Catholic parish of Notre Dame de la Dehirande, in the district of Pamplemousses;" and

Ordinance No. 2, intituled "An Ordinance for authorizing an advance to be made from the Colonial Treasury for repairing the church and presbytery of the Roman Catholic parish of St. Sauveur, in the district of Black River."

These Ordinances were framed at the request of the Roman Catholic inhabitants of two districts to provide the funds necessary to enable them to re-construct and repair the buildings set apart for the purposes of their religion in each of those districts. The means adopted, namely, that of levying upon the inhabitants of the Roman Catholic persuasion in the district an addition to the taxes paid by them, though objectionable in some respects, is based on numerous precedents in our legislation, and has been found to be the most convenient and practicable. The passing of special Ordinances to meet such cases will cease on the contemplated revision of the laws relative to the temporalities of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ordinance No. 5, intituled "An Ordinance to declare the three days following the arrival in the Colony of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to be public holidays, and to postpone the opening of the second session of the assizes to the 14th day of June, 1870;" and

Ordinance No. 6, intituled "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 5 of 1870, intituled 'An Ordinance to declare the three days following the arrival in the Colony of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to be public holidays, and to postpone the opening of the second session of the assizes to the 14th day of June, 1870.'"

As shown by their titles, these laws were introduced on the occasion of the visit to Mauritius of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. The second law was passed to make some changes rendered necessary by the fact of His Royal Highness not having reached the Colony until some days after the date at which his arrival had been expected.

Ordinance No. 7, intituled "An Ordinance to amend the law regarding the registers of dealers in gold and silver wares."

The calling of workers or dealers in gold and silver affords them so many facilities for the reception and concealment of stolen valuables, that for years past the law of the Colony (Ordinance No. 19 of 1855) had laid upon them the obligation of keeping, for the inspection of the police, a register of each purchase or sale made by them;

of late, however, these artisans, who are all of the Asiatic races, had effectually defeated the object of this requirement by making the entries in their registers in Oriental languages, which are unknown to the police here, instead of in the English or French languages, as was formerly the practice among them. Ordinance No. 7 was passed to render obligatory the keeping of the registers in one or other of the latter languages.

Ordinance No. 13, intituled "An Ordinance to legalize the collection of certain sums, which have been received without due authority of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis."

In the year 1860, the municipal corporation of Port Louis brought into the town an abundant supply of water, the works connected with which had occasioned to them a large outlay of money; and in July, 1861, the corporation made certain regulations, whereby proprietors not having purchased a share of water for their houses had to pay a small water-rate for the water they took from the fountains, which had just been erected in all parts of the town.

By some oversight on the part of the corporation, these regulations were not submitted, as required by law, for the approval of the Governor, and they were therefore illegal. During several years the rate continued to be paid and the proceeds were spent for the legitimate purposes of the corporation; at last the informality above mentioned was discovered, and the rate was no longer claimed. It was necessary, however, to protect the corporation from any claims that might arise for the refund of the sums so levied and expended, and the Ordinance No. 13 was brought into Council with that object.

By Proclamation No. 1 the law which had already abolished in Mauritius imprisonment for debt was made applicable to the Islands of Seychelles and Rodrigues, dependencies of the Colony; and by Proclamation No. 5, portions of the law of Mauritius relating to masters and servants were extended with modifications to the Island of Rodrigues, a measure which had long been needed there.

In execution of the Building Act Ordinance 6 of 1869, and with a view to the prevention of conflagrations, the Governor declared by the Proclamation No. 6 what goods and merchandise should be considered as dangerous goods, and what was the maximum quantity which could be lawfully kept in ordinary shops, stores, &c. Some difficulty was experienced by large dealers in these goods in obtaining stores sufficiently isolated from other dwellings to warrant the municipal corporation in issuing to them special licences for the storing of dangerous goods in unlimited quantities, and on this account it was found necessary twice to postpone (Proclamations No. 13 and 21) the coming into force of the Proclamation No. 6.

Several branch roads and other thoroughfares, the maintenance of which fell to the surrounding inhabitants, had been allowed to get into so bad a condition that the traffic thereon was attended with numerous accidents; but the law contained no provision compelling the inhabitants to keep those ways in a good state of repair, though it provided efficient machinery for this being done wherever the inhabitants should choose to combine together to incur the necessary expenditure. A practical remedy to this evil was brought about by

MAURITIUS.

the Proclamation No. 27, under which such roads may be closed until properly repaired.

One of the principal sections of the Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, regulating the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons, was brought into operation by the establishment of the regulations published by the Government Notice, No. 44, of 12th April, 1870, prescribing the mode and bases of the examination to be passed by candidates for diplomas, enabling them to practice in the Colony as dispensing chemists.

From time to time, throughout the year, there were published several postal regulations, amending, in compliance with advices received from the home authorities, the charges on letters despatched from the Colony.

The following laws not emanating from the local Legislature were promulgated in the Colony, namely :—

1st. Those sections of the Mutiny Act, 33 Vict. cap. 7, which concern the general public.

2nd. The Royal Proclamation of 19th July, 1870, making current in the Colony the new French coins of one and two francs.

3rd. The Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870.

4th. The Convention of Commerce of 30th December, 1869, between Her Majesty and the Emperor of Austria.

5th. The Royal Order in Council of 31st March, 1870, establishing Rules of Practice for Proctors, &c., in Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

6th. The Royal Order in Council of 18th May, 1870, relating to the civil status laws of the Colony.

7th. The Royal Proclamation of Neutrality as to the Franco-Prussian War, dated 19th July, 1870.

8th. The Royal Order in Council of 17th August, 1870, giving notice of a convention having been made with the United States as to renunciation of naturalization under the Act of 1870.

9th. The Royal Proclamation of 9th August, 1870, embodying extracts from the Foreign Enlistment Act, 1870.

10th. Those sections of the Statute 29 and 30 Vict., cap. 109 (Navy Discipline), which concern the general public.

Before closing this Report, I have the honour to state that in reviewing the laws brought out during the year 1870, I have departed somewhat from the plan adopted by my predecessors in similar cases, which was to limit the scope of the Report to the Ordinances passed by the Council of Government of the Colony, leaving unnoticed all other legislative matters. I conceive however, that to obtain a proper appreciation of the additions made to our law books during the past year it is needful to draw attention not only to our Ordinances, but to the laws of all other classes which, as is apparent in the foregoing pages, form an important supplement to the more formal legislation of that period; and I trust his Excellency will be pleased to approve of my having drawn up this Report on the broader plan just mentioned.

(Signed) G. B. COLIN,
Proc.-General.

May 20, 1871.

SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Honourable
A. H. GORDON, C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 143.)

Government House, Mahé, Seychelles,

MY LORD,

September 22, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the Annual Blue Book returns from this dependency, together with the Report of the Civil Commissioner, for the past year.

2. That Report your Lordship will find by no means uninteresting. It contains a record of rapid progress and improvement, and I see no reason to anticipate that the further development of these dependencies is likely to be arrested.

3. There are only two points on which I wish to add a few words to the Report of the Civil Commissioner.

4. He has hardly done sufficient justice to the "establishment of the Sisters of St. Joseph for the education of female children."

In that school from 300 to 350 children are educated for the most part gratuitously, and are brought under civilizing influences by which they would not otherwise be reached.

The "College" of the Christian Brothers is also of a very superior character to what might be expected in so remote a locality as the Seychelles.

5. The Civil Commissioner, from an unwillingness probably to exalt unduly his own work, has not attributed to the pier which he has constructed all the importance it deserves.

When completed it cannot fail to render this port one of far more frequent resort than it at present is. This work has hitherto been carried on at a comparatively small expense, and under difficulties which the Civil Commissioner deserves the utmost credit for having overcome.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1870.

Seychelles, Civil Commissioner's Office,
March 6, 1871.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the annual returns for the Blue Book.

Conditions and Prospects.

2. I have the pleasure to report to your Excellency that the prosperity of this dependency has greatly increased during the past year,

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and bids fair to do so more rapidly, as the cocoanut plantations, nearly at maturity, and others come into bearing, together with the tracts of land devoted to tobacco and sugar-cane.

3. The trade in cocoanut-oil, tobacco, cotton, and vacoa bags is assuming much larger proportions.

	Oil.	Tobacco.	Vacoa Bags.	Cotton.
	Gallons.	lbs.		lbs.
In 1870 - - - - -	189,820	27,796	141,842	15,332
In 1869 - - - - -	127,112	9,973	52,677	10,485
Showing an increase of -	62,708	17,823	89,165	4,847

Exports and Imports.

4. The total value of exports for 1870 is 31,233*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*; for 1869, 23,469*l.* 4*s.*, showing an increase of 7,764*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

There is really a much larger increase, tobacco having been valued in the present report at 2*s.* per pound instead of 4*s.* in 1869; other articles also at much lower rates than in that year.

5. The value of imports for 1870 is 46,276*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; for previous year, 30,564*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*, showing an increase of 15,711*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The detailed revenue collected at Seychelles for 1870 is 5,858*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.*; for previous year, 4,322*l.* 2*s.* 6½*d.*, showing an increase of 1,536*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*

7. The expenditure at Seychelles for 1870 amounts to 6,869*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*; for previous year to 5,797*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, showing an increase of 1,072*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*

8. To the amount of revenue collected at Seychelles should, in all fairness, be added the amount of duties paid at Mauritius on goods imported there, forwarded to and consumed at Seychelles, which, according to calculations based upon the manifests of all the vessels who came to this port from Mauritius during the past year are estimated at 2,223*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, making a total approximate revenue of 8,081*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.*, against (in 1869) 6,093*l.* 10*s.* 0½*d.*, showing an increase of 1,988*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.*

9. His Excellency the late Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., in a Despatch, No. 204, 29th of August, 1866, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, published in the Blue Book of 1867, in forwarding the Civil Commissioner's Report on Seychelles, allows that the before-mentioned duties should be credited to the revenue, but observes that no authentic data exists for deciding the much-vexed question of whether the Seychelles group is a burden to the mother Colony or not, I would most respectfully submit that if masters of merchant vessels enter on their manifests the quantities and descriptions of goods contained in the various packages shipped from Mauritius to Seychelles, the exact amount of duties paid on those goods can be ascertained and carried to the credit of this dependency; for although the trade between it and the present

Colony is called a coasting trade, and the dependency sometimes a district, still there are certain modifications; for instance, a duty being charged at Mauritius of 4*l.* a pound on tobacco imported from Seychelles, which is not the case on tobacco brought in from different districts of that Island to Port Louis.

10. Should this suggestion relative to the manifests be carried out, I am convinced that it would plainly show, that instead of being considered a burden, Seychelles would be an assistance and an advantage to the mother Colony, containing as it does a population estimated at over 13,000, consuming the goods imported from Mauritius, as if they were inhabitants of a district of that Island, and who will, when the Ordinances extended to Seychelles come into force, be paying the same duties on goods imported from other parts of the world.

11. The increase in the expenditure for the past year (1,072*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*) is owing to an augmentation of the police force, a pension granted to an old public servant retiring, the keep of more than double the number of prisoners, 300*l.* voted towards the construction of a new Custom House, the purchase of a new pratique boat, the construction of the road through a very difficult country, building of bridges, and keeping up the public buildings, some of which still need heavy repairs.

Public Works.

12. Among the public works may be mentioned the gaol, which had barely proper accommodation for 50 prisoners, and was in so dilapidated a condition that they could escape from it at pleasure. It has been almost rebuilt, and so much extended that from 120 to 130 prisoners can now be comfortably and securely lodged.

13. About seven miles of road have been kept in repair, and two miles constructed, passing in some places through enormous masses of rock, involving the boring of 3,160 feet of mines for blasting purposes.

14. About 800 feet of a pier, 20 feet wide, solidly built of granite and coral, has been run out in the sea, towards the edge of the reef bounding the inner harbour, which, when completed to about 2,800 feet, most probably by the end of the present year, will enable vessels of the largest tonnage to lay alongside.

15. 200 feet of the old "Chantier Pier" has also been repaired, as it is the only landing-place at present with deep water.

Harbour.

16. The harbour has been resurveyed, the true positions of the shoals ascertained, buoys laid down, and beacons erected, so that vessels can now easily enter without the aid of pilots; for although many of the coral banks in the neighbourhood of Mahé, and the other islands, have grown up considerably, the soundings of 8 fathoms to 13, as laid down in the Admiralty chart of the roadstead and harbour of Port Victoria (in which there is safe anchorage for any number of vessels of the largest tonnage), have experienced but little change, the bottom being composed of stiff whitish clay.

SEYCHELLES.

Shipping.

17. 58 merchant vessels have entered and cleared in the Custom House, which, with 23 mail steamers and 29 men-of-war that have visited the port during the past year, make an aggregate tonnage of 45,432.

18. Several vessels have also been added to those belonging to Port Victoria that ply regularly to Mauritius and other places in the neighbourhood.

Improvements.

19. The town has been considerably improved: 24 new houses built, some of them solidly in stone and coral; among which a large commodious hotel for the convenience of passengers coming from the mail steamers or other ports to await their arrival.

20. A fountain which supplies the Roman Catholic College and the inhabitants in the upper part of the town, free of charge, has been erected at the junction of Royal and Barkly Streets, materially adding to their comfort and cleanliness, as the overflow available for washing purposes is carried down the side of the former street.

21. The "Chaussée" or esplanade at the north end of the town, has been extended, and a substantial bridge thrown across the river "Moussa" adjoining the new road now in course of construction, towards the north end of the island.

Crime.

22. There has been an absence of all serious crime, but the number of prisoners has been greatly augmented owing to the Vagrant Act being energetically carried out.

Health.

23. The general health of the inhabitants has been good, the death rate contrasting favourably with former years, when the population was much smaller. The births have amounted to 422 and the deaths to 182.

24. The mortality has been principally among the young, from bowel complaint caused by the water brought down from the mountains in the rainy season being impregnated with vegetable matter; this will be much ameliorated in the town by the establishment of fountains, and the water being conveyed through iron pipes.

Population.

25. Without actually taking a census, I sent trustworthy persons at the close of the year 1869 to ascertain as near as possible the population of these islands: the result was 13,000.

26. To this, there has been of course, some augmentation, but as a regular census is to be taken by Ordinance shortly, correct statements will be included in the statistics for the next Blue Book.

Schools.

27. There is at Victoria a Roman Catholic college for the education of boys, and an establishment of Sisters of "St. Joseph" for the education of female children.

28. There is also a Protestant school connected with the church in Victoria, and two others in the west side of the island; there is also a school connected with the Protestant church at Praslin, but one is much required at La Digue, where there are a considerable number of young children.

Distilleries.

29. At Frigate Island, the most fertile in the group, the soil is of the richest description, being composed of nearly pure guano to a depth of several feet; the sugar-cane flourishes luxuriantly. Here is the principal distillery of Seychelles, having produced during past year about 5,000 gallons of rum. There is another distillery at Mahé producing about 2,000.

30. The rum is not, as has been supposed, consumed by the crews of H.M. ships visiting this port, but the inhabitants themselves; the former preferring beer and the more expensive liquors imported from Europe, mostly *viâ* Mauritius.

31. The revenue from the duty on this article has been increased by 713*l.* during the past year, and may be estimated at much more, now that the duty is the same at Mauritius.

Charitable Institutions.

32. When the hospital is placed on a proper footing, and an efficient poor relief fund established, the sick poor, and those unable to work, will receive proper care and attention, which is now impossible, from only one medical man being on the island, and the distance between the different plantations precluding his visiting them.

Liberated Africans.

33. The continued importation of liberated African slaves, under proper restrictions, will materially add to the prosperity of this dependency, which has greatly increased in importance since the opening of the Suez Canal, being in the track of vessels from India and China, and offering as it does a most eligible situation for a sanatorium of H.M. ships in the Indian seas, and for a naval dépôt.

General Remarks.

34. During a visit I paid to the principal islands of this dependency last year, I observed considerable progress in some of them, and I believe that most of the apathy hitherto existing is by degrees being shaken off, no doubt from the people seeing the increased demands for the productions of the islands, and the additional comfort obtainable by those industriously inclined; several enterprising men

SEYCHELLES.

from Mauritius and other places have also settled amongst them, and commenced business.

35. At the Island of "Silhouette" the cocoanut establishments are on a very large scale, the buildings of a most substantial description, the iron roofs imported from Europe. The African labourers are housed in comfortable cottages, and appeared contented and happy.

36. The Island of "Félicité" is very valuable to Government, as all the wood required for the public works at Mahé is cut from the forest of splendid timber on that island; the cocoanut-trees that have been, and are still being, planted will in a few years produce a considerable revenue.

37. The plantations at Mahé are increasing rapidly, and at several of them the Africans are as well lodged and cared for as labourers in Europe.

38. A sugar plantation and mill has been established, and is producing profitably.

39. I hope, with the kind assistance of your Excellency in carrying out further improvements, to report with the next Blue Book returns still further increase and prosperity of the dependency under my charge.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. A. H. Gordon,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. H. FRANKLYN,
Civil Commissioner.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

No. 5.

(No Report had been received at the time of going to press.)

LONDON:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET AND CHANCING CROSS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

R E P O R T S
ON THE
PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL
POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1870.

PART III.

**NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES;
AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA;
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND; AND
THE MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS, &c.**

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1872.



L O N D O N :
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1872,

[C.—617.] Price 1s.

SCHEDULE.

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CANADA.

No. 1.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

No. 1.

(No General Report on the state of the Dominion for the year 1870 has been received ; but many useful particulars are contained in the "Further Correspondence respecting Emigration," presented to Parliament, July, 1872 [C.—614].)

PRINCE
EDWARD
ISLAND.

No. 2.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 2.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor ROBINSON to the
EARL OF KIMBERLEY

(No. 87.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,

MY LORD,

December 27, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of Prince Edward Island for 1870, the preparation of which has been delayed by the non-completion of the printed commercial returns.

2. Some years having elapsed since the Blue Book was reported upon in detail, or the Colony described, for the information of those at a distance I beg leave on this occasion to submit the following remarks :—

PART I.

GENERAL.

1. Prince Edward Island, situated in the southern part of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, and separated from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the Strait of Northumberland, which varies from nine to thirty miles in width, is about 130 miles long, from 10 to 34 broad, and contains an area of 2134 square miles.

2. Communication with the neighbouring provinces is kept up, throughout the period of navigation, by means of excellent steamers running tri-weekly from Charlottetown (the capital of the Island) to Pictou in Nova Scotia, and Shediac in New Brunswick. Freight and passenger steamers connect weekly with Quebec and the Gulf ports to the north, and with Halifax and Boston to the south.

3. We are in direct telegraphic communication with Canada, the United States, and, via Canada, with Europe ; and telegraph offices have been established in the principal towns and settlements of the province.

4. In winter, travelling is attended with considerable discomfort, and the isolation of the island at that season of the year is one of the greatest drawbacks to the place.

5. The navigation generally closes towards the end or middle of December. By the first week in January the harbours, with one exception, are covered with a strong coating of ice, and the colonial

steamers laid up for the winter, not to recommence running, as a rule, until the end of April or the beginning of May. During the winter months mails and passengers are conveyed across the Strait in ice-boats which ply between Cape Traverse in Prince Edward Island, and Cape Tormentin in New Brunswick. The distance across at this point is about nine miles, and the passage occupies from three to eight hours, according to the state of the weather. All male passengers are expected to assist in hauling the ice-boats; female passengers rarely face the transit except in the most favourable weather, and under circumstances of urgent necessity.

6. An Act was passed during the last session of the Legislature providing for the construction of a railway from Charlottetown eastward to Georgetown and Souris, and westward to Alberton and Tignish. In Georgetown harbour, which faces the widest part of Northumberland Strait, the channel remains open nearly a month later, and the ice breaks up in the spring fully a month earlier, than in the harbour of Charlottetown. There is no reason why a steamer, constructed on the principle of those used on the River Saint Lawrence, should not be placed on the route from Georgetown to Pictou in Nova Scotia. This, I hope, will be done, so soon as the railway shall be completed from Charlottetown to Georgetown; and then our steam communication with the neighbouring provinces need not be stopped for more than two months in the year.

7. Charlottetown, the seat of Government, is situated upon a point of rising ground at the confluence of the York and Hillsborough rivers. The town, which contains about 10,000 inhabitants, is well laid out in broad streets intersecting each other at right angles, and several good sized squares; but in wet weather the streets are almost impassable (crossings and pavements being alike unknown), and the squares, with one exception, are so ill-kept and neglected as to be anything but an ornament to the city. The principal public buildings consist of the Colonial Building, a fine stone edifice erected in 1842, and an equally handsome brick building which has just been completed. The former contains accommodation for the different branches of the Legislature and the public officers of the colony; the latter is intended to be used as a court house and post office. There are numerous churches in the town—Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Bible Christian—but I do not think that any of them can claim to be possessed of much architectural beauty. The private houses are mostly built of wood, but a good many brick buildings have recently been erected, which give a more substantial and regular appearance to the streets, and will contribute to security from fire. The affairs of the city are under the management of a Mayor and Corporation, who maintain a small police force, and supervise generally the business of the municipality. Improvements urgently needed in Charlottetown are good sewerage, a cheap and plentiful supply of wholesome water, macadamized streets, and side-walks.

8. The other chief towns are Georgetown in King's County, and Summerside in Prince County. It was originally intended that Princetown should be the capital of the western district, but not being so well situated with respect to its harbour as are Charlottetown and

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Georgetown, large vessels being unable to approach the shore, Summerside has quite monopolized the business of the county, and is rapidly increasing in appearance and importance. The population of Summerside amounts now to 1,917; that of Georgetown to 1,056.

9. Seen from the water, the appearance of Prince Edward Island is exceedingly prepossessing. On approaching the coast the country affords a charming picture of cultivated and well-wooded land, with villages and cleared farms dotted along the shore, and by the sides of the bays and rivers. The country is everywhere intersected with navigable harbours and tortuous arms of the sea, no part of the island being much more than eight miles from the ebbing and flowing of the tide.

10. The land is generally speaking flat, but rises here and there to a moderate height, without being anywhere so mountainous as to impede the operations of the agriculturist. On the whole the conformation of the island is good; the scenery is home-like and agreeable; while thickly scattered, flourishing homesteads indicate a degree of comfort and prosperity rarely met with in a new country.

PART II.

SOIL.

1. Prince Edward Island is remarkable for the fertility of its soil, and it may be confidently asserted that, with the exception of a few bogs and swamps, composed of a soft spongy turf, or a deep layer of wet black mould, the whole island consists of highly valuable cultivable land. The soil, which is well watered with numerous springs and rivers, is formed for the most part of a rich layer of vegetable matter above a bright loam, resting upon stiff clay and sandstone; the land in its natural state being covered with timber and shrubs of every variety, amongst which the cedar, mountain ash, wild cherry, &c., are conspicuous for their beauty and delicacy of appearance.

2. All kinds of grain and vegetables grown in England ripen here in great perfection, and the following particulars, taken from the census of 1871, will show the general improvement that has taken place in the agricultural condition of the colony during the last ten years; premising, for the purpose of showing of what the land is capable, that two-thirds of the whole are still uncultivated.

3. I have recently received from Dr. Eawson, F.R.S., Principal of McGill University, Montreal, a highly interesting and exhaustive report of geological explorations made by him in July and August of the present year, under the direction of the local Government, and of which I hope to be able to send your Lordship very shortly a printed copy. Meanwhile the following extracts under the heads of Soils and Peat as Fuel will be of interest:—

Soils.—The great wealth of Prince Edward Island consists in its fertile soil, and the preservation of this in a productive state is an object of imperative importance. The ordinary soil of the island is a bright red loam, passing into stiff clay on the one hand and sandy loam on the other. Naturally it contains all the mineral requisites

ACREAGE, FARM STOCK, and IMPLEMENTS.

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	1861.	1871.	Increase.	Decrease.
No. of persons holding land - - -	10,741	11,512	771	—
Acres held in fee simple - - -	465,942	697,598	231,656	—
Acres held by lease or agreement for lease	407,169	279,601	—	127,568
Acres held by verbal agreement - - -	38,440	20,931	—	17,509
Occupiers neither freeholders nor lease- holders (squatters) - - -	64,636	30,110	—	34,526
Acres of arable land held by all families -	368,127	445,103	76,976	—
Horses - - - - -	18,765	25,829	6,564	—
Neat cattle - - - - -	60,012	62,984	2,976	—
Sheep - - - - -	107,245	147,364	40,119	—
Hogs - - - - -	38,552	52,514	13,961	—
Threshing machines - - - - -	856	1,607	751	—
Fanning mills * - - - - -	—	1,692	—	—
Mowing machines * - - - - -	—	1,024	—	—
Haymaking machines * - - - - -	—	578	—	—
Hay elevators * - - - - -	—	115	—	—
Stumping machines * - - - - -	—	133	—	—
Mud diggers * - - - - -	—	1,402	—	—
Other useful machines * - - - - -	—	2,509	—	—
Carts, trucks, and truck waggons * - - -	—	14,295	—	—
Riding waggons and carriages, wood sleds, and jaunting sleighs * - - - - -	—	24,884	—	—

* Not previously enumerated.

PRINCIPAL FARM PRODUCTIONS RAISED IN 1860 AND 1870, RESPECTIVELY.

	1860.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bushels wheat - - -	346,125	269,392	—	76,733
" buckwheat - - -	50,127	75,109	24,982	—
" barley - - -	223,195	176,441	—	56,754
" oats - - -	2,218,578	3,120,576	901,998	—
" potatoes - - -	2,572,335	3,375,726	803,391	—
" turnips - - -	348,784	395,358	46,574	—
" beans * - - -	—	584	—	—
" peas * - - -	—	741	—	—
" Indian corn * - -	—	2,411	—	—
" Timothy seed * - -	—	8,645	—	—
" clover seed - - -	321	3,219	2,898	—
Tons hay - - - - -	31,088	68,349	37,261	—
Lbs. flax * - - - - -	—	27,282	—	—
" butter - - - - -	711,485	981,939	270,454	—
" cheese - - - - -	109,233	155,233	45,990	—

* Not previously enumerated.

for cultivated crops, while its abounding in peroxide of iron enables it rapidly to digest organic manures, and also to retain well their ammoniacal products.

The chief natural manures afforded by the island, and which may be used in addition to the farm manures to increase the fertility of the soil or restore it when exhausted, are—

(1). The mussel mud or oyster shell mud of the bays. Experience has proved this to be of the greatest value.

(2). Peat and marsh mud and swamp soil. These afford organic matters to the run-out soil at a very cheap rate.

(3). Seaweed, which can be obtained in large quantities on many parts of the shore, and is of great manurial value whether fresh or composted.

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(4). Fish offal. The heads and bones of cod are more especially of much practical importance, and should be more carefully preserved than at present.

(5). Limestone. The brown earthy limestones of the island are of much value in affording a supply of this material as well as small quantities of phosphates and alkalies.

Where manures require to be purchased from abroad, those that will be found to produce the greatest effects are those capable of affording phosphates and alkalies, more especially bone earth, super-phosphate of lime and guano; but where fish offal and seaweed can be procured in sufficient quantity, or good dressings of the oyster deposit are applied, these foreign aids may well be dispensed with at least for many years.

Peat as Fuel.—The question of fuel is likely, from the rapid disappearance of the forests, to be a matter of extreme importance in Prince Edward Island. The cheapness of coal in Nova Scotia, along with the easy transport by water to most parts of the island, and the convenient inland transportation which will be afforded by the railway now in progress, must prevent any serious difficulty; but it is worthy of consideration whether measures should not be taken by the Government for the protection of the remainder of the forests; and whether the time has not come for the utilization of the large deposits of peat existing in some parts of the province.

In European countries, and more recently in Canada and the United States, peat has commanded much attention as cheap and convenient fuel. In its natural state, or merely air-dried, it has been much employed for local consumption, though of very inferior heating power to coal; but when pulped and compressed and thoroughly dried it has been found capable of competing with coal and wood on equal terms both for steam production and domestic use. Charred peat has also become an important article of consumption as a substitute for wood charcoal, and coke. The importance of this subject may be inferred from the following calculations by Dr. Harrington as to the quantity of peat in the three great turbaries noticed under a previous heading:—

Lennox Island Bog,	20,200 tons, value at \$4	\$ 80,800·00
Squirrel Creek,	500,000 " "	2,000,000·00
Black Bank	1,777,248 " "	7,108,922·00
	<u>2,297,448</u>	<u>\$9,189,792·00</u>

Dr. Harrington has made comparative trials of the peat with that in use in Canada with the results stated below, which show that the quality in the case of the largest of the three deposits is excellent, and as the facilities for its extraction and shipment, especially at the Black Bank, are all that could be desired, there can be no doubt that the three deposits above, without mentioning others, are capable of supplying a very large quantity of good fuel. That deserving of attention in the first instance is undoubtedly the Black Bank at Cascumpec, both on account of the readiness of access to it and its good quality. It is also to be observed that another deposit exists in Cascumpec Bay,

and is said to be of great extent, though we had not an opportunity to examine it or to obtain specimens for analysis.

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PART III.

CLIMATE.

1. The climate of Prince Edward Island is remarkably healthy. The cold is certainly much more severe, and lasts for a longer period than in England; but, on the other hand, the atmosphere is dry and salubrious, and the island possesses a summer climate of such brightness and beauty as to compensate, to a great extent, for the long winter and backward spring. An excellent description of the climate was furnished to the Colonial Office by Lieut.-Governor Sir Donald Campbell in 1849, from which I cannot do better than quote the following extracts:—

“The weather generally becomes unsteady in the early part of November, and sometimes sharp frosts with showers of snow take place before the middle of that month, the frost gradually increasing until the ground resists the plough, which is ordinarily about the second week in December. The cold then increases rapidly, and the ground is covered with snow. During the months of January and February the weather is usually steady, with the thermometer occasionally from 10° to 20° below zero of Fahrenheit, but sometimes a thaw takes place, and by laying the ground bare of its winter covering, occasions great inconvenience. Travelling is suspended and becomes difficult, and the hauling of firewood, which is usually accomplished at that period, is prevented. March, as in England, is a windy month, and is throughout very changeable. About the close of this month the snow rapidly melts, and the ice in the rivers and bays becomes rotten and dangerous to pass, and wholly disappears, except in late seasons, about the middle of April. Strong southerly winds now commence, and the last vestiges of frost speedily vanish.

“The spring is short, and in the beginning of June the summer bursts forth, and from this time until the end of September the climate resembles that of the southern coast of England. The thermometer, however, during calm weather, indicates a greater degree of heat, but the sea breeze seldom fails to lower the temperature before the sun reaches the zenith, so that little inconvenience thence arises. About the middle of September the evenings get cool, and the autumn properly commences.

“In Lower Canada the winter is nearly two months longer than in this island, the frosts more severe, and the snows deeper, while the temperature during the summer is equally hot. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Cape Breton the frosts are equally severe, the transitions from one extreme of temperature to another is more sudden, with frequent fogs along those parts that border on the Atlantic and the Bay of Fundy.

“Prince Edward Island is almost entirely free from those fogs to which the surrounding countries are subject. This remarkable exemption is accounted for when we consider that the waters which wash the shores of the island do not come in immediate contact with

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those of a different temperature; and that Cape Breton and Newfoundland, both of which are high and mountainous, lying between it and the Atlantic, arrest the fogs which would otherwise be driven from the banks to Prince Edward Island.

"The air is clear and salubrious, and the climate at all seasons is much more healthy than that of the greater part of Upper Canada or the United States, the intermittent fevers of which countries are here of very rare occurrence."

2. I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Cundall, of Charlottetown, for the following meteorological return:—

Month.	Thermometer.				Barometer at 9 A.M.			Warmest day.	Cooldest day.	No. of days on which rain or snow fell.	No. of days of strong wind.	Thunder storms.
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Range.	Highest.	Lowest.	Range.	Mean temp.	Mean temp.			
January	15.24	40	-11	51	30.51	29.58	0.93	35.50	-2	11	3	—
February	13.74	44	-21	65	30.70	29.07	1.63	36.00	-7.50	5	2	—
March	30.87	59	4	55	30.53	29.34	1.19	44.00	17.50	6	6	—
April	31.70	68	9	59	30.43	29.60	0.83	47.50	16	11	3	—
May	45.48	75	27	48	30.46	29.62	0.84	56.50	36	5	3	1
June	54.06	83	33	50	30.40	29.55	0.85	64.50	44	16	1	2
July	62.04	83	41	42	30.22	29.72	0.50	69.50	52	7	0	3
August	63.42	80	41	39	30.37	29.83	0.54	71.50	51	8	0	1
September	62.57	74	29	45	30.33	29.67	0.66	62.00	35	11	2	1
October	40.00	57	-20	37	30.67	29.41	1.26	52.50	25	11	2	—
November	32.97	60	14	46	30.70	29.54	1.16	50.00	17.50	14	5	—
December	21.64	36	-3	38	30.62	29.30	1.32	32.00	3.50	13	0	—
	38.64	83	-21	104	30.70	29.07	1.63	71.50	-7.50	120	38	8

PART IV.

THE LAND QUESTION.

1. The chief difficulties connected with Prince Edward Island were centered until very recently in a condition of land tenures which were at variance with popular habit and feeling on this side of the Atlantic.

2. Towards the close of the last century this island, various schemes having been proposed for its cultivation and settlement, was parcelled out into sixty-seven townships and granted by the Imperial authorities to individuals having claims on the Government of the day (chiefly officers who had served during the Seven Years' War), on terms and conditions as to settlement which may be thus briefly classified:—

- (1). The payment of certain quit-rents, varying according to the several lots from two to six shillings sterling per 100 acres, payable annually on one-half the grant at the expiration of five years, on the whole at the expiration of ten years from the date of the grant.
- (2). A reservation of such part of each lot as might afterwards be found necessary for fortifications or public purposes; and of 100 acres for a church and glebe, and 30 acres for a schoolmaster.
- (3). A reservation in the grants of certain townships abutting upon the sea-shore, of 500 feet from high-water mark, for the purpose of a free fishery.

- (4). A reservation of all mines of gold, silver and coal.
- (5). That the grantee of each township should settle the same within ten years from the date of the grant, in the proportion of one person to every 200 acres.
- (6). That if one-third of the land was not so settled within four years from the date of the grant the whole should be forfeited.

3. On these terms the original proprietors accepted their grants, Prince Edward Island being at that time attached to the province of Nova Scotia. In the following year (1768) the proprietors petitioned that the island might be erected into a separate Government, undertaking at the same time to defray the expense of it from the quit-rents, and proposing, in order to provide a fund for the purpose, to commence paying their quit-rents at the expiration of three years, instead of five, from the issue of the grants. On this understanding the application of the proprietors for the political separation of the island from Nova Scotia was assented to by the Imperial Government, and the first local Government and Legislature were forthwith organized accordingly. But it was soon found that a fund dependent upon the payment of the quit-rents was entirely too precarious to maintain the local Government, and in 1777 the civil expenditure of the Colony became a charge on the Imperial Exchequer.*

4. During the first ten years the terms of settlement with reference to population were complied with in ten townships, nine others were partially settled, and forty-eight entirely neglected; the persons emigrating under the auspices of the proprietors (who were mostly resident in the mother country) being allowed leases for 999 years on the following conditions:—

First and second year	-	-	-	-	No rent.
Third year	-	-	-	-	3d. per acre.
Fourth year	-	-	-	-	6d. "
Fifth year	-	-	-	-	9d. "
Sixth year	-	-	-	-	1s. "

to continue for the remainder of the term at one shilling sterling per acre. And thus, in a part of the world where the proprietary system has always been unpopular with the people, and where the easy acquisition of freehold property by those who cultivate the soil is general and expected, was established a state of things as between landlord and tenant, a class warfare, and discontent, which practically retarded the progress and development of the Colony.

5. One would think that leases for 999 years at one shilling an acre, which were readily granted by the landlords to those who were desirous of settling in the Colony, ought to have satisfied the reasonable expectations of persons emigrating from a country where leases of even one-tenth the duration were rare. But as the population of the island increased, the desire of the settlers to be possessed of the fee-

* The Colony continued in the receipt of assistance from the Imperial Parliament until the year 1851, when, on the introduction of Responsible Government, the maintenance of the Civil List (with the exception of the Lieut.-Governor's salary, which was paid from home until 1869) was undertaken by the local Legislature.

simple of their farms, thwarted as was this desire by the fact above stated that the whole of the land was rigidly locked up in the hands of a few absentee proprietors, led to an agitation which can only now be said to be finally subsiding.

6. At first the landlords were all-powerful. Gradually, however, the lessees, being resident on the land, electing and constituting in great part the representative Legislature, and recognizing their political power, became eager to make themselves, if possible, the actual proprietors of the soil.

7. With this object in view Acts were from time to time passed by the local Legislature which, had they been assented to by the Crown, would have had the effect of transferring property in land from the owner to the tenant. These were, "An Act for Establishing a Court of Escheat," by which it was proposed that the lands of those proprietors who had failed to comply with the conditions of their grants might be escheated and re-granted in small tracts to actual settlers; "An Act for Settling Doubts as to Titles;" "The Tenants' Compensation Act;" "An Act for imposing a Tax on the Rent-Roll of Proprietors;" none of which, however, were confirmed by the Crown.

8. Matters went on in this way for many years, and attempts disallowed in one form were as often insinuated in another, the royal prerogative being on each occasion exercised for the protection of legal rights, and the maintenance of the laws of property.

9. The inutility of such attempts became at length apparent, and of late years the policy of the local Government has been to devote as much money as could be spared to buying out the proprietors by private contract, with a view to the properties purchased in block being subdivided and resold to the tenants for gradual payments on as easy terms as the country could possibly afford, and certainly on far easier terms than would have been exacted by the proprietors.

10. This wise policy has done much to allay excitement and discontent on the land question. It is hoped that the few remaining proprietors will sooner or later be induced to sell, and those of the tenants who have not yet been able to acquire their freeholds may at all events look forward to the accomplishment of what is still the great aim and desire of almost every tenant-farmer in Prince Edward Island.

11. I subjoin a return showing the number and area of the estates which have been purchased by the Colony, the price paid per acre, the quantity of land resold to the occupiers, and the quantity of disposable land still remaining in the hands of the local Government.

12. From the following return it will be seen that since 1854 we have bought up from the proprietors, at a total cost of 98,435*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, 445,131 acres of land, of which 345,474 have been resold to the occupiers, and 99,657 are still available for intending purchasers.

13. The unsold lands are forest lands of medium quality (the best lands having of course been taken up by the tenants in the first instance) the selling price of which varies from four shillings to six shillings and eightpence per acre. For the same lands the proprietors would probably have charged from five to fifteen shillings per acre.

SCHEDULE of TOWNSHIPS and ESTATES purchased by the COLONIAL GOVERNMENT from the PROPRIETORS in BLOCK, with a view to their being RESOLD to the TENANTS.

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Date of Purchase.	Name of Proprietor.	Total area.	Price per acre, sterling.	Total purchase money in sterling.	Number of acres resold.	No. of acres unsold remaining in the hands of Government.
			<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>		
Dec. 28, 1854	Chas. Worrell, Esq.	70,539	3 11	18,766 13 4	52,405	18,134
June 2, 1856	Sir M. Walsh - -	12,720	2 11½	1,900 0 0	11,340	1,380
Sept. 17, 1860	Earl of Selkirk - -	62,059	2 1½	6,612 0 6	62,059	
Nov. 24, 1860	Ass'ns. of a bankrupt	13,000	3 0½	2,000 0 0	11,629	1,371
Oct. 14, 1863						
June 1, 1864	Sir G. Montgomery	22,931	4 3½	4,965 10 0	21,739	1,192
May 16, 1865	and brothers -)					
April 7, 1866						
July 1, 1866	Sir S. Cunard - -	212,931	4 11½	53,000 0 0	157,917	55,014
Nov. 15, 1867	Rev. G. Townsend -	3,715	3 11½	783 6 8	1,288	2,427
July 13, 1868	J. C. Pope, Esq. - -	7,413	7 4½	2,726 0 0	6,822	591
Feb. 4, 1869						
Mar. 16, 1869	T. H. Haviland, Esq.	24,167	5 1	6,146 13 4	9,143	15,024
Mar. 25, 1869	Dan. Hodgson, Esq.	3,728	5 11½	1,615 9 4	8,474	254
Mar. 31, 1870	E. Palmer, Esq. - -	11,928	8 2	4,970 0 0	7,658	4,270
		445,131		98,435 13 2	345,474	99,657

14. By an Act of the Colonial Legislature, passed in 1868 (31 Vict. cap. 4), facilities are offered to individuals who may desire to settle on the public wilderness lands. Amongst other privileges they are allowed eighteen years to pay for their farms—the first eight years free, the purchase-money then to bear interest at five per cent., and to be payable in ten annual instalments.

15. It is indisputable that new settlers would be a source of increased wealth to the country, but on the other hand it is argued, I believe, that the area of unoccupied land is no larger than will hereafter be required to meet the wants of the natural increase of the existing population, and no steps have been taken by the local Government, or organized system established in connection with an agency at home, for the encouragement of immigration. I may observe that there is a tax on immigrants arriving in the Colony of 8s. 8d. per head, which was imposed before the enactment of the Imperial Passengers Act, 18 & 19 Vict. cap. 119, as amended by 26 & 27 Vict. c. 57, and still remains unrepealed.

PART V.

POPULATION, EDUCATION, CRIME, &c.

1. I give an abstract, compiled from the last two Censuses, which shows that the population amounts now to 94,021 against 80,857 in 1861, being an increase of 13,164 in ten years.

2. The decrease under the head of "Natives of other countries" as noted in the above Table, accords with the remarks which I have already submitted on the subject of immigration.

3. The density of population for the whole island is rather more than 43 persons to the square mile, or if the unsettled lands be excluded, 135 persons to the square mile.

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	1861.	1871.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of inhabitants :—				
Total population - - - -	80,857	94,021	13,164	—
Males - - - - -	40,916	47,121	6,205	—
Females - - - - -	39,941	46,900	6,959	—
Natives of the island - - -	62,846	80,271	17,415	—
Natives of other countries -	18,011	13,750	—	4,261
Religious Denominations* :—				
Church of England - - - -	6,785	7,220	435	—
Presbyterians - - - - -	15,591	18,608	3,021	—
Church of Scotland - - - -	10,271	19,976	705	—
Roman Catholics - - - - -	35,852	40,442	4,593	—
Methodists - - - - -	5,809	8,361	2,552	—
Baptists - - - - -	3,451	4,371	920	—
Bible Christians - - - - -	2,561	2,709	148	—
Universalists - - - - -	41	77	36	—
Other Denominations - - -	496	1,262	443	—
Miscellaneous particulars :—				
Births - - - - -	2,320	2,344	24	—
Deaths - - - - -	938	941	3	—
Marriages - - - - -	585	550	—	35
Deaf and dumb - - - - -	68	70	2	—
Blind - - - - -	43	64	21	—
Insane - - - - -	148	188	40	—

* There are now 187 churches in the Colony, against 159 in 1861, but the proportion belonging to each denomination I have not yet been able to ascertain.

4. The population is composed of a mixed race, about six-sevenths of the whole being natives of the island, and one-seventh of the United Kingdom, the neighbouring British Provinces, and other countries. The former (80,271) are chiefly descended from the French Acadians, who remained after the cession of the Colony in 1763; of settlers from the Highlands of Scotland, who were introduced by the proprietors of townships subsequently to 1770; and of American Loyalists, to whom lands were granted at the close of the revolutionary war. The latter (13,750) may be divided as follows:—

Natives of England - - - -	-	-	-	1,957
„ Scotland - - - - -	-	-	-	4,128
„ Ireland - - - - -	-	-	-	3,712
„ British Provinces - - - -	-	-	-	3,246
„ Other Countries - - - - -	-	-	-	707

5. This reference to the population would not be complete without some mention of the Micmac Indians, of whom a few are still remaining—a remnant of a once numerous and powerful tribe. The Indians number now about 300. They are chiefly located on Lennox Island, a small island of about 1,400 acres, which has recently been purchased for their sole use and benefit by the Aborigines Protection Society of London, at a cost of 400*l.*, and which is now about to be surveyed and parcelled out into suitable family lots. The Indians appear to have had a liking for, and to have squatted on, Lennox Island for many years, for I find it mentioned by the Land Commissioners in their Report of 1862 that “as it appears by evidence that the Indians have been in uninterrupted occupancy of this property for more than half a century, and have built a chapel and several houses upon the same, the undersigned are of opinion

"that their title should be confirmed, and that this very small portion of the wide territory their forefathers formerly owned should be left in the undisturbed possession of this last remnant of the race."

6. The purchase of this island by the Aborigines Protection Society, in order that the Indians might be secured in their tenure, was therefore an act of great benevolence. I am happy to think, having recently visited the island, that the condition of these poor people is improving, and that the allotment of a piece of land to each family will put an end to their boundary difficulties, a fruitful source of dispute, and tend to the further elevation of their general character and position. The Indian Commissioner, Mr. Stewart, whose indefatigable exertions on behalf of the Indians entitle him to the gratitude of the community, reports that "the question as to the capacity and willingness of the resident Indians to take to the cultivation of the soil, as an auxiliary to their manufacturing pursuits, equally with that of their children to be educated, is now no longer questionable. The problem in both these particulars has been satisfactorily solved on Lennox Island, where three or four families have made considerable progress in the cultivation of the land, only answerable of course, to the means at their disposal for this purpose; and where a Government school is now in successful operation."

7. The Legislature pays the salary of the schoolmaster at Lennox Island, and allows about 60% a year for the relief of pauper Indians, which sum is administered by the Indian Commissioner, and usually devoted to the purchase of blankets and a few medical comforts.

Education.

8. I submit an abstract or summary in a tabular form of the educational statistics of Prince Edward Island for 1870, derived from the reports of the school inspectors, and the public accounts of the Colony:

EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS, 1870.

No. of Schools.	No. of enrolled scholars.	Average daily attendance.	Teachers' Salaries.			Annual expenditure on Education.	Annual cost of each pupil on enrolment.	Annual cost of each pupil in attendance.	Total population of the Colony.	Total No. of children between five and sixteen.
			Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.					
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
372	15,000	9,000	64 13 4	23 6 8	40 0 0	13,333 6 8	0 17 6	1 9 7	94,021	25,952

9. The following extracts from a report recently furnished to me by Mr. John McNeill, the careful and efficient secretary to the Board of Education, afford a general view of the state of education in the colony:—

The total population by the recent Census is 94,021, of whom 25,952 are between the ages of five and sixteen. A sum of 13,000*l.* sterling of the public funds, or about one-fifth of the yearly revenue, is annually expended on education, maintaining one college or academy, 15 grammar schools, and 357 common or district schools, imparting instruction to a total of 15,000 children on the roll, of whom 9,000,

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or 61.39 per cent. of the whole, are found in daily average attendance. Of these schools 103 are taught by female teachers. With the sole exception of the College (Prince of Wales), the schools are free to all children, excepting a payment of a small fee to defray the cost of fuel. The parents build and maintain the schoolhouses and provide the requisite school-books and stationery.

The salaries vary according to sex and qualifications, from a minimum of 23*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling to the maximum of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* sterling per annum, the average yearly salary being 40*l.* sterling.

Of grammar schools there are fifteen in operation in the rural districts, the teachers of which must be competent to pass an examination before a Board of Examiners in the Greek, Latin, and French languages, and in mathematics.

Of the common schools there are two classes, in the lower of which the teachers must be found qualified to teach reading, arithmetic, English grammar, and geography; in the higher class, in addition to these branches, theoretical and practical mathematics, with the use of the globes, is prescribed.

A normal school is established for the training of teachers, with a staff of three instructors, the principal of which is paid 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling a year.

The college or academy above referred to has a principal and one professor, whose salaries are in part defrayed by the students' fees. This institution costs the country 440*l.* sterling a year, paid from the Colonial treasury.

The present school system came into operation in the year 1853, since which time the schools have more than doubled, and the school attendance has been trebled.

A board of education of eleven members appointed by Government, whose salaries or fees do not exceed 150*l.* sterling a year in the aggregate, administers in monthly sessions the public school system of Prince Edward Island.

10. Admitting that since the introduction of the present school system in 1853 "the schools have more than doubled and the school attendance has been trebled," I still think that the foregoing statistics are not altogether satisfactory. The return which precedes Mr. McNeill's report shows that the average daily attendance is small as compared with the juvenile population, while the cost to the country of each pupil in attendance is certainly in excess of what it ought to be; and I am disposed to concur with my predecessor that "the results from the voluntary system of free education, supported as it chiefly is by general taxation, can hardly be deemed commensurate with the large expenditure of public funds which it absorbs."

Libraries, Newspapers, and Institutions.

11. The only libraries that I know of are the Legislative Library (a large and well-stocked one, to which the members of the Legislature, the bar, and the public officials generally, have access), one circulating library in Charlottetown, and one in Summerside.

12. Six weekly newspapers are published in Charlottetown, two in Summerside, and one in Georgetown. They usually devote a column or so to the latest telegraphic news, the remainder of their space being mostly given up to advertisements and the energetic discussion of local politics.

13. The principal institutions and societies, apart from those supported by Government, are :—

Benevolent Irish Society.
 Cascumpec Ladies' Benevolent Society.
 Catholic Young Men's Literary Association.
 Charlottetown Debating Club.
 Church of England Ladies' Industrial Clothing Society.
 Colonial Church and School Society.
 Diocesan Church Society.
 Ladies' Benevolent Society in connection with the Church of Scotland.
 Micmac (Indian) Society of Prince Edward Island.
 Orwell Young Men's Institute.
 Prince County Agricultural Society.
 Prince Edward Island Auxiliary Bible Society.
 Prince Edward Island Auxiliary Religious Tract Society.
 Princetown Literary and Scientific Society.
 Roman Catholic Convent School.
 St. Dunstan's (Roman Catholic) College.
 St. Peter's Bay Agricultural Society.
 Wesleyan Dorcas Society.
 Wesleyan Methodist Academy.
 Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute.

14. The above enumeration, which does not include various Masonic and Temperance conventions, will at all events suffice to show that Prince Edward Island is not wanting in several of those institutions and societies which serve to indicate the social and educational status of the community.

Gaols and Prisoners.

15. I regret that it is not in my power to report any improvement under this heading, the gaols of Prince Edward Island being in much the same state as they were when the information respecting them was furnished which will be found summarized at pages 29 and 59 of the Digest on Colonial Prisons presented to Parliament in 1867, from which, to save reference, I extract the following remarks :—

Prince Edward Island has three county gaols, which are managed under local statute 12 Vict., cap. 12, by justices selected by the Lieut.-Governor from each county to be commissioners for giving effect to the provisions of the Act. Gaolers are appointed by the sheriffs; medical officers by the Lieut.-Governor.

The Queen's county gaol serves to some extent as a central prison,

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and to it may be transferred from the others prisoners sentenced to hard labour, for which in them there is no provision. In fact it does not appear that such a transference is generally made, and each of the three prisons is used for all classes of criminals, and occasionally for lunatics. The actual numbers are generally small, and below the capacity of the prisons.

The action of the Commissioners under the Act has not had the effect of introducing uniformity of system, diet, or treatment in these prisons, nor that of making them sanitarily satisfactory. In this latter respect all three are very deficient, while the Queen's county gaol provides no labour but that of stone breaking, and the others none. Separation and reformation are not attempted.

16. In January last I addressed a communication to my Government on the subject of the Queen's county gaol, in which (after drawing their attention to the want of accommodation for prisoners, the defective state of the sewerage, and the absence of anything like hard labour) I remarked as follows:—

"The gaol is evidently too small, its staff too limited, for the present requirements of the colony. The experience of the mother country, and the labours of the eminent men who have made that experience their study, prove that for prison discipline to be successful you must have complete separation (which of course means silence as well), classification, hard fare, and hard labour. The deterrent property of hard labour should not be sacrificed to the remunerative—that is to say, it is more important to punish the prisoner than to make him profitable—and the reformation of juvenile offenders should be strenuously and systematically attempted. For all this you require of course space and a proper staff of officers. But money so spent is well spent, and though the results may not be immediately apparent, they will be none the less certainly felt and appreciated.

"The establishment is defective in almost every sanitary, disciplinary, and penal requirement, and falls far short, I feel bound to add, of what in my judgment the central prison of a prosperous colony with a population of nearly 100,000 and a revenue of 60,000*l.* a year ought to be."

17. I am happy to report that my advisers are fully alive to the urgent necessity of removing the numerous defects now existing in the prisons, and that they will take an early opportunity of applying to the Legislature for the necessary funds for the purpose. Certainly the steady increase of crime exhibited by the following Table, far exceeding as it does the proportionate increase of population, and which can only be attributed, so far as I am aware, to the unsatisfactory condition and management of the local gaols, shows that no time should be lost in dealing with a question of such paramount importance to the community.

COMPARATIVE TABLE of the NUMBER of OFFENCES, APPREHENSIONS, CONVICTIONS, and ACQUITTALS, for the last four Years.

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	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
The number of offences reported to the police - - - - -	401	449	510	556
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates - - - - -	294	302	374	490
The number of summary convictions:—				
1. For offences against person - - - - -	302	348	450	510
2. For prædial larceny - - - - -	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - - - -	100	150	200	250
4. For other offences - - - - -	60	80	100	120
The number of the convictions in the superior courts:—				
1. For offences against person - - - - -	2	6	4	22
2. For larceny - - - - -	4	8	3	4
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny - - - - -	—	—	—	—
4. For other offences - - - - -	1	2	1	8
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the inferior courts, Charlottetown - - - - -	7	9	10	12
2. In the superior courts - - - - -	1	3	7	2

Pauperism.

18. The expenditure on behalf of the poor does not much exceed 1,500*l.* a year. There is a small almshouse near Charlottetown, which accommodates a limited number of paupers, the remainder of the grant being expended in outdoor relief.

Lunatic Asylum.

19. This, the only charitable institution of any importance supported by the local Government, is not in keeping with the present requirements of the Colony. The cells on the ground floor are, as I reported some months ago, damp, badly ventilated, and badly lighted; and the inmates in the airing room much too crowded, the room containing usually about 17 persons, and affording an area of only 3,600 cubic feet. The quantity of land, too, attached to the building is insufficient to afford healthy occupation to the patients. It has therefore been decided to purchase a property near Charlottetown, known as Falconwood, the house on which is capable of being converted into a suitable asylum, and where the inmates will find abundant healthy and profitable occupation in assisting in the cultivation of the farm. With this intention the Legislature recently placed the sum of 5,000*l.* at the disposal of my Government—3,000*l.* for the purchase of the property, and 2,000*l.* for enlarging and improving the buildings on the farm, in order to prepare them for the reception of the lunatics.

20. The asylum is under the control of ten trustees appointed by the Lieut.-Governor in Council (the Board including by law the Chief Justice, the President of the Legislative Council, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, three members of the Executive Council, and two members of the House of Assembly, who have power "to make and ordain rules and regulations for the management of the said institution, and to appoint the several officers, and fix and determine the amount of salaries to be paid to such officers, and

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"the appropriation and expenditure of all moneys voted by the Legislature for the support of the said institution."

21. The establishment, which can only accommodate at present 40 lunatics, costs the country altogether 1,000*l.* a year, being at the rate of 25*l.* per head for each inmate.

22. I observe from the census that there are altogether 188 lunatics in the Colony; their proportion to the population is therefore one in 500.

PART VI.

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND COAL.

1. The following return of manufactures will, I think, be considered satisfactory :—

	1860.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Yards of fulled cloth manufactured	122,940	150,975	28,035	—
" cloth not fulled	303,676	428,313	124,637	—
Lbs. leather	143,803	197,031	53,228	—
" tobacco *	—	69,399	—	—
Barrels lime	22,821	56,787	33,966	—
No. of fish barrels *	—	42,278	—	—
" bricks	1,331,000	1,556,245	225,245	—
" carriages and sleighs	1,151	1,207	56	—
Breweries and distilleries	20	11	—	9
Tanneries	55	58	3	—
Grist mills	141	145	4	—
Carding mills	46	47	1	—
Saw mills	176	181	5	—
Fulling and dressing mills	9	13	4	—
Cloth factories *	—	4	—	—
Shingle and lath mills *	—	130	—	—
Lime kilns	48	116	68	—
Brick kilns	9	20	11	—
Steam engines for mechanical and other purposes *	—	12	—	—

* Not previously enumerated.

Fisheries.

2. Prince Edward Island is, without doubt, the best fishing station within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, but the habits and feelings of the inhabitants are so decidedly agricultural that the fisheries have not received from our own people the attention which they deserve, and are now mainly carried on with United States' capital.

3. The following return, extracted from the census for 1870, shows that, so far as the island population are concerned, the fishing business has not on the whole improved since 1860 :—

	1860.	1870.
Fishing establishments	89	176
Barrels of mackerel cured	7,163	16,047
" herrings or alewives	22,416	16,831
Quintals of cod or hake	39,776	15,649
Gallons of fish oil	17,609	11,662
Boats owned for fishing	1,239	1,183
Men engaged in fishing	2,818	1,646
Lbs. of hake sounds cured	No return	12,522
" preserved and other fish	"	6,711

4. On the political aspect of the fishery question I, for obvious reasons, will not now touch, except in so far as I would express an earnest hope that the arrangements consequent on the Treaty of Washington, and now pending, may result in the final settlement of a question which has in various forms been the subject of controversy with the United States for the better part of a century, and ultimately lead to the establishment, on a secure and lasting basis, of commercial relations beneficial alike to the people of these provinces and the United States.

Coal.

5. To the report of Dr. Dawson on the geological structure and mineral resources of the colony (the result of explorations conducted last autumn in search of coal) I have already referred. The practical conclusions arrived at with respect to the coal formations of Prince Edward Island are therein given in the following words:—

RELATIONS TO THE COAL FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The facts stated under the previous general heading afford the data for an answer to this question as complete, perhaps, as can be obtained without actual mining operations.

The carboniferous rocks of Nova Scotia consist of the following members in descending order:—

The Upper Coal Formation, consisting of red and gray sandstones with thin beds of coal, not as yet worked, 1,500 to 3,000 feet.

The Middle Coal Formation, consisting of sandstones, shales, &c., usually of gray colours, and containing the large productive beds of coal, estimated at about 4,000 feet.

The Millstone Grit Series, consisting of sandstones and conglomerates without productive coal, 5,000 to 6,000 feet.

The Lower Carboniferous Marine Series, containing limestones and gypsum, with sandstones, shales, and marls. Thickness very variable.

The Lower Carboniferous Coal measures, consisting of sandstones, shales, and conglomerates without productive coals, but with highly bituminous shales.

In Nova Scotia these beds are tilted up, often at considerable angles, and the upper portions of them have been removed by denudation in such a manner that the edges of the coal beds appear at the surface, and can be opened up without penetrating the overlying beds. In Prince Edward Island the case is different, the beds being very nearly horizontal; so that only the upper members can be seen, and these are in many places covered with the Triassic series.

The places explored by us in which the coal-measures are nearest the surface are, Governor's Island and Gallas Point, and the coast extending from West Cape to North Cape. To these may perhaps be added the coast near Wood Islands, where it is probable that the carboniferous rocks may be covered with only a very limited thickness of trias.

If boring were undertaken at either of the above places, it might be hoped that the upper coals would be reached at a depth of not less than 500 or more than 2,000 feet. Should these prove too thin to

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be worked, there would be little hope of reaching the lower coals at a less depth than 3,000 or 5,000 feet, which would, of course, be a depth altogether too great for profitable working at present.

The above estimate proceeds on the supposition that the coal-measures underlying Prince Edward Island are similar to those of Nova Scotia. It is to be observed, however, that in New Brunswick there is reason to believe that the aggregate thickness of the carboniferous rocks is much less, but unfortunately the beds of coal partake in this diminution of thickness. Should the coal rocks under Prince Edward Island, therefore, prove similar to those of New Brunswick, they would be found at a less depth, but on the other hand might be of less value.

As the beds exposed at Miminigash are in the line of the Buctouche anticlinal, on the coast of New Brunswick, and those of Gallas Point and Governor's Island are in the line of the Cape Tormentine anticlinal in the same province, and, as the beds have much the aspect of the upper carboniferous in New Brunswick, it might be inferred that the coals under these places may resemble those of New Brunswick. In that province no beds of coal of greater thickness than 2 feet are known. At Wood Islands the beds reached might be supposed to resemble more those of the northern part of Pictou district, in which no coals thicker than 3 feet are yet known in the upper coal-formation; and the great beds of the middle coal-formation would probably at this place be too deep to be profitably worked.

On the other hand, it is possible, though there is no evidence of this, that the coal of the upper coal-formation under Prince Edward Island might be more abundant than in the districts mentioned, and it is to be observed that those districts cannot be considered so fully explored as to render important new discoveries improbable. From these statements the general practical conclusion would be,—

1. That carboniferous rocks, similar to those of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, probably underlie the whole of Prince Edward Island.

2. That in certain places indicated above, the upper member of the Carboniferous Series appears at the surface in a nearly horizontal and undisturbed condition.

3. That boring operations prosecuted at these places would, undoubtedly, reach the upper and possibly the middle coal-measures, and the beds of coal which they may contain.

4. That the productive value of such coals must be uncertain previous to such actual trial.

5. That the depth of the seams would probably be too great for profitable mining in the present state of the coal trade.

The greatest depth at which coal is at present mined in Nova Scotia is about 900 feet, and the greatest depth in England is 2,000 feet. No mines in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick have as yet penetrated the upper coal-measures in search of coal, nor have such careful and minute surveys of these beds been undertaken as would supersede the necessity of boring operations in Prince Edward Island, should it be desired to test the point practically. Should any operations of this kind be undertaken and prosecuted to completion on the main land, the information there obtained could readily be applied to Prince Edward Island. On the other hand, the successful penetration of the

newer coal-formation in Prince Edward Island, in search of coal, would at once develop the corresponding regions of the mainland now untried. In any case, deep boring in the newer coal-formation, either in northern New Brunswick or in Prince Edward Island, could scarcely fail to develop facts of scientific interest.

In event of such boring being undertaken to a moderate depth, the methods now in use in Nova Scotia and in the oil districts of Canada and Pennsylvania would be sufficient; but if it were intended to penetrate to great depths, some of the improved methods which have been applied to deep boring in Europe would be preferable.

On the whole, it may be concluded that the probabilities are decidedly against the discovery of a large bed of coal at such a depth as to enable it to be immediately available.

PART VII.

GOVERNMENT.

Form of Government.

1. Responsible Government was conceded to Prince Edward Island in 1851, since which time the Executive has been distinctly recognized as responsible to the Legislature.

2. The Legislature consists of the Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Crown, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Militia, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary; a Legislative Council of thirteen members, and a House of Assembly of thirty members; both of which bodies are elected by the people.

3. An Executive Council of nine members, selected from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, advises and assists the Lieutenant-Governor in administering the affairs of the Colony.

4. Under the system of Government which formerly existed, it was not considered indispensable that the Executive Council should always be so constituted as to enjoy the confidence and support of a majority of the representatives of the people, and hence arose the antagonism which more than once prevailed between the different branches of the Legislature. The establishment of Responsible Government (a system under which the policy of the Colonial Government, in all questions in which Imperial interests are not directly involved, is conducted in accordance with the well understood wishes of the people as expressed through their representatives in Parliament) has of course done much to remedy this evil, and by obliging the Lieutenant-Governor to select his advisers from among persons possessing the confidence of the people, or at all events of a majority of their representatives, to maintain that executive and legislative harmony so essential to the good government of the Colony.

5. The sittings of the Executive Council are held under the presidency of the Lieutenant-Governor in person, but the Councillors, as a Committee of Council, deliberate previously upon matters referred for their consideration, and prepare reports and memoranda for the Lieutenant-Governor on all important subjects.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor is authorized to appoint one member of the Executive Council to preside there in his absence, the seniority

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of the remaining members being regulated by the date of their respective appointments.

7. It is the province of the Council to occupy itself with the general business of the Colony, applications and demands of every description being placed under its consideration. In accordance with the advice of his councillors the Lieutenant-Governor nominates to employments, removes public functionaries, receives and accepts resignations; in conjunction with them he directs all public affairs, and sees that the laws are duly carried out.

8. The right to nominate to employments resides constitutionally in the Lieutenant-Governor, who can exercise it independently if he thinks proper; but the retirement of his advisers, who are held responsible by Parliament, would be the probable consequence of non-consultation with the Council.

9. Ministers once installed hold office until they find, on the one hand, that they are unable to secure in the Legislature the requisite support of the policy to which they are pledged; or, on the other hand, that the Lieutenant-Governor, exercising the discretion which the Royal Commission and instructions confer upon him, deems it his duty to act on important questions in opposition to their policy and advice. Disagreements within itself occasionally lead to the disruption and resignation of the ministry, but in nine cases out of ten the changes that occur are directly attributable to a want of Parliamentary support.

Political Franchise.

10. The Island is divided into three counties, each of which elects four councillors (the city of Charlottetown returning one in addition) and ten representatives.

11. There is no qualification for members of the Legislative Council. For its electors, the qualifications are full age, and property to the value of 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

12. The qualification for a member of the Assembly is the possession of freehold or leasehold estate, of the value of 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* over and above all incumbrances. As regards electors for the House of Assembly, every male person of full age, being a British subject, and in possession of fee-simple, leasehold, or of occupation land of the yearly value of 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* (who shall have owned or possessed, or have been in the occupation of said premises for 12 months, or have resided in the town, royalty, or district 12 months previous to the issue of the writ of election), or who, being liable to perform statute labour on the public roads, shall have actually performed the same, or paid a sum of money in lieu thereof, or whose calling relieves him from statute labour, is an elector for the town and royalty, or the district, in which he resides. Joint occupants, tenants, or co-partners in trade have but one vote, except the yearly individual interest or joint occupancy amounts to 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

13. A system of voting papers has been in operation since 1866, the following being the section of the Act (29 Vict., cap. 10) by which the system was established.

Every male person of the age of 21 years and upwards, being a British subject, and qualified to vote upon any property qualification

required by any Acts of the General Assembly of this Island, either for members to serve in the Legislative Council or House of Assembly, shall be entitled to vote for the election of a member or members for the town and royalty, or district respectively, wherein such property qualification may be situated, by polling all his votes at the polling division in any other town or district wherein such person may be entitled to vote for the election of a member, although such polling division be not situated in the town or royalty, or electoral district, or county in which such first-mentioned qualification lies.

14. 14,148 electors recorded their votes at the last general election.

Legislation.

15. The principal Acts passed in 1870 (in addition to the ordinary Revenue and Appropriation Acts) were :—

An Act to declare the law and practice in cases of escheat.

An Act relating to law costs and other proceedings.

An Act for the better government of certain rising towns and villages in this Island.

An Act to amend the Act relating to patents for useful inventions.

An Act to repeal certain sections of an Act to regulate the specie currency of Prince Edward Island.

An Act to explain and amend certain Acts relating to the sale by licence of spirituous liquors.

An Act to amend the law regulating the hearing of appeal cases, and to repeal part of a certain Act therein mentioned.

An Act to alter the present system of paying school teachers' salaries.

An Act relating to the mode of summoning special jurors, and to entering up judgments in the Supreme Court.

An Act for taking the census of Prince Edward Island.

An Act to amend an Act intituled "An Act to provide for the care and maintenance of idiots, lunatics, and persons of unsound mind."

Civil and Judicial Establishments.

16. The changes that take place in the various departments of government are so frequent, and depend so entirely on political considerations, that I hardly consider it necessary to offer any detailed remarks with reference to the *personnel* of the civil establishment. Under Responsible Government the distribution of patronage forms of necessity an important element of political and party strength, but I must confess that the system, as carried out in Prince Edward Island, is by no means conducive to the efficiency of the public service. In Canada, as at home, while the political heads of the principal departments necessarily come and go with their party, an efficient staff of experienced subordinates, who take no part in political life, and are far removed from its vicissitudes, is permanently maintained by the State; and there, as a rule, the heads of minor departments, and petty officials generally, are safe from political interference. Not so here, I regret to say. All office holders, from the highest to the lowest, the judges alone excepted, understand that their tenure is

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essentially a political one, and that on a change of Government they are liable to be removed, in order to make way for the supporters of the incoming administration. There are one or two departments, it is true, in which the chief clerks, being officers of technical experience and ability, have, for the last few years, been retained in office by successive Administrations, but these are exceptional cases, and, generally speaking, the first act of a new ministry is to give practical and forcible effect to that politically mischievous adage—"To the victors belong the spoils." It is evident that no service can be thoroughly efficient in which merit is made subordinate to the exigencies of party government, and which does not offer to its employés a fair prospect of advancement and permanent employment.

17. The chief colonial officers are the Colonial Secretary, the Comptroller of Customs, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who receive salaries of 200*l.* a year each, and the Postmaster-General, whose salary is 233*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* The total cost of the civil establishment is 6,081*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

18. The principal officers of the judicial establishment are—

	£	s.	d.
The Chief Justice, whose salary is	400	0	0
The Master of the Rolls and Asst. Judge of Supreme Court	388	6	8
The Vice-Chancellor and Asst. Judge of Supreme Court	333	6	8
The Attorney-General	233	6	8
The Solicitor-General	133	6	8

and the Judge of the Court of Probate, who is paid by fees. The total cost of the judicial establishment is 1,593*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; of the civil and judicial combined, 7,674*l.* 18*s.*

Administration of Justice.

19. The courts consist of—

(1.) *Court of Chancery.*—The judicial powers of the Court of Chancery, of which the Lieutenant-Governor is ex-officio Chancellor, are now exercised by a Master of the Rolls and a Vice-Chancellor.

(2.) *Court of Divorces.*—Of the Court of Divorce, which was established by statute in 1886, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Members of the Executive Council are the judges; but the Lieutenant-Governor is authorized by law to depute the Chief Justice to preside there in his absence.

(3.) *Supreme Court.*—This, the principal court of law in the Colony, is presided over by a Chief Justice and two assistant judges. The powers, practice, and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court resemble, and are nearly co-extensive with, those of the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer at Westminster. The Common Law is the foundation of the jurisprudence of the Colony, but the amendments introduced from time to time in England, have, as a rule, been adopted by the local Legislature without delay. In civil suits nine jurors out of twelve can give a verdict, but in all criminal prosecutions there must be a unanimous verdict of twelve jurors to convict or acquit. The Supreme Court is the Court of

Appeal from all courts of an inferior jurisdiction, and from the decisions of Justices of the Peace in all cases of summary convictions.

(4.) *Court of Probate*.—The Court of Probate with one judge has jurisdiction all over the Colony in cases of wills and intestacies.

(5.) *Court of Bankruptcy*.—A Court of Bankruptcy was created by Statute in 1868, the Commissioner of which has jurisdiction in all cases where the debtor applying for relief has contracted debts to the extent of 200*l.* sterling.

(6.) *Small Debt Courts*.—Courts for the recovery of small debts have been established in various sections of the Colony. Each Court is presided over by three Commissioners, and has jurisdiction in actions of debt and trover to the extent of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* sterling.

(7.) *Police Court*.—Charlottetown was incorporated as a city in the year 1855, and has a Police Court and a Small Debt Court, of which the Mayor and Common Councillors are the judges. These Courts have only jurisdiction where crimes have been committed and debts contracted within the boundaries of the city.

20. Justices of the Peace throughout the Island have power to adjudicate in minor cases of trespass to the person and property.

PART VIII.

COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE.

Imports and Exports.

1. The commerce of Prince Edward Island consists in the exchange of its agricultural productions, island-built ships, and fish, for British and American manufactures, and other articles of necessary consumption.

2. I subjoin (1) a Table showing the value of the imports and exports from and to the countries with which the mercantile intercourse of the Colony was carried on during 1870, and (2) a return which will serve to exhibit the progressive commercial improvement that has taken place here since 1860.

1.—VALUE of the IMPORTS and EXPORTS of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, from and to each Country, in the Year 1870.

Countries.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
United Kingdom -	168,588	120,781
British Colonies, viz.:—		
Canada -	48,175	5,092
Nova Scotia -	71,517	85,303
New Brunswick -	48,672	38,010
Newfoundland -	2,746	15,612
Bermuda and West Indies -	5,314	3,648
Foreign Countries, viz.:—		
United States -	45,588	81,353
Cuba -	—	836
St. Pierre -	128	2,202
Total value in sterling of Vessels Exported from Prince Edward Island, during the year 1870 (tonnage 12,093), not including any wrecked or lost at sea -	—	78,000
Total	885,782	480,840

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2.—TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS and EXPORTS from 1860 to 1870 inclusive.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	Years.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1860	230,054	223,580	1866	432,487	378,567
1861	209,935	163,114	1867	294,444	372,316
1862	211,240	150,550	1868	363,037	362,913
1863	293,431	209,472	1869	363,027	365,191
1864	337,927	202,668	1870	385,732	430,840
1865	381,012	302,565			

3. It will be observed that, as compared with 1869, the imports of 1870 show an increase of 22,705*l.*, the exports of 65,649*l.*; that the imports have risen from 230,054*l.* in 1860 to 385,732*l.* in 1870; and that the exports have nearly doubled in value within the last ten years. In view of this latter increase, the following detailed statement of the exports for 1860 and 1870, respectively, will be of interest:

STATEMENT OF EXPORTS and their VALUE for the Years 1860 and 1870.

Articles Exported.	Quantity.		Value.					
	1860.	1870.	1860.			1870.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Oats, bushels	1,290,062	1,893,433	101,728	8	3	149,694	9	7
Barley "	103,756	53,719	13,374	13	2	6,883	12	8
Potatoes "	519,198	502,484	24,801	7	3	23,503	19	7
Turnips "	52,609	30,011	1,910	10	4	1,006	19	7
Pork, barrels	1,902	12,880	5,809	7	0	50,626	6	0
Ham and bacon, lbs.	43,609	89,192	913	19	1	2,301	6	2
Lard, lbs	4,816	86,746	161	13	4	2,476	18	10
Horses	130	539	1,293	6	8	9,386	17	0
Cattle	476	262	2,419	6	8	1,763	10	8
Sheep	610	5,275	391	8	4	2,685	19	0
Butter	32,077	155,865	1,301	2	0	6,151	14	0
Eggs	1,786	9,824	4,400	8	3	19,563	16	0
Codfish, quintals	14,645	9,117	7,039	0	0	4,955	19	0
Herrings, barrels	10,232	5,082	6,766	15	4	3,617	10	0
Mackerel, "	3,882	14,095	8,244	12	6	35,506	8	4
Preserved fish, packages	—	18,621	—			7,003	19	0
Shipping, tonnage	6,266	12,093	23,146	10	6	78,000	0	0
Other produce	—	—	5,619	1	2	13,979	18	6
Total value of Exports the produce of the Colony			218,321	9	10	419,114	3	11
" " not the " "			5,259	4	0	11,726	13	11
Total value of all Exports			223,580	13	10	430,840	17	10

Shipping.

4. The shipping returns may be considered satisfactory, the arrivals and departures having increased as follows since 1869:—

INWARDS.

	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Vessels	1,619	1,773	154	—
Crews	10,357	10,904	547	—
Tonnage	230,220	265,805	33,585	—

OUTWARDS.

	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of Vessels - - -	1,698	1,856	158	—
Crews - - - - -	14,250	12,203	—	2,047
Tonnage - - - - -	249,533	278,893	29,360	—

5. Comparative returns showing in detail the tonnage to and from the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and Foreign Countries during 1869 and 1870, are herewith submitted:—

VESSELS ENTERED, 1869 and 1870.

Countries whence Arrived.	1869.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom - -	31	10,269	397	3	702	25	34	10,951	422
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada - - -	81	7,659	491	7	567	46	88	8,226	537
Nova Scotia - -	822	116,874	5,014	128	9,860	682	950	126,734	5,696
New Brunswick - -	357	51,778	2,002	30	856	92	387	52,634	2,094
Newfoundland - -	26	1,187	120	7	699	36	33	1,886	156
Bermuda and West Indies - - -)	4	314	22	1	92	6	5	406	28
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States - -	84	25,557	1,234	16	2,423	98	100	27,980	1,332
Portugal - - -	—	—	—	2	466	16	2	466	16
Spain - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Pierre - - -	7	340	25	13	597	51	20	973	76
Uruguay - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - - -	1,412	213,958	9,305	207	16,262	1,052	1,619	230,220	10,357

Countries whence Arrived.	1870.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom - -	39	12,900	410	1	216	8	40	13,116	418
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada - - -	57	10,465	587	4	157	19	61	10,622	606
Nova Scotia - -	898	133,161	4,820	132	12,348	811	1,030	145,509	5,631
New Brunswick - -	432	66,549	2,582	49	1,705	149	481	68,254	2,731
Newfoundland - -	34	1,527	147	14	1,091	68	48	2,618	215
Bermuda and West Indies - - -)	5	570	33	2	225	12	7	795	45
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States - -	83	22,043	1,121	4	714	26	87	22,757	1,147
Portugal - - -	—	—	—	2	535	27	2	535	27
Spain - - -	2	396	15	1	195	7	8	591	22
St. Pierre - - -	3	182	14	10	527	40	13	709	54
Uruguay - - -	—	—	—	1	299	8	1	299	8
Total - - -	1,553	247,793	9,729	220	18,012	1,175	1,773	265,805	10,904

VESSELS CLEARED, 1869 and 1870.

Countries to which Departed.	1869.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom -	77	22,129	712	—	—	—	77	22,129	712
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada -	35	2,063	171	29	3,091	218	64	5,154	389
Nova Scotia -	629	106,482	4,764	361	23,951	1,499	990	130,433	6,263
New Brunswick -	229	51,923	4,679	182	9,729	664	411	61,652	5,343
Newfoundland -	78	5,247	357	—	—	—	78	5,247	357
Bermuda and West Indies -	8	674	45	—	—	—	8	674	45
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States -	47	22,850	1,028	2	200	12	49	23,050	1,038
St. Pierre -	26	1,164	103	—	—	—	26	1,164	103
Cuba -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	1,124	212,532	11,857	574	37,001	2,398	1,698	249,533	14,250

Countries to which Departed.	1870.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
United Kingdom -	84	24,319	768	—	—	—	84	24,319	768
British Colonies, viz.:									
Canada -	34	2,344	206	27	3,531	223	61	5,875	429
Nova Scotia -	634	121,033	5,068	446	33,320	1,737	1,080	154,353	6,805
New Brunswick -	264	57,781	1,988	202	11,622	749	466	69,403	2,737
Newfoundland -	75	4,882	357	2	82	18	77	4,964	370
Bermuda and West Indies -	8	822	48	—	—	—	8	822	48
Foreign Countries, viz.:									
United States -	53	17,703	937	—	—	—	53	17,703	937
St. Pierre -	25	1,205	101	—	—	—	25	1,205	101
Cuba -	2	249	13	—	—	—	2	249	13
Total -	1,179	230,338	9,481	677	48,555	2,722	1,856	278,893	12,203

6. There arrived here in 1869 and 1870 from the

	1869.		1870.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom -	34	10,951	40	13,116
British Colonies -	1,468	189,896	1,627	227,798
Foreign Countries -	123	29,383	106	24,891
Total -	1,619	230,220	1,773	265,805

and we despatched in the same years to the

	1869.		1870.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom -	77	22,129	84	24,319
British Colonies -	1,546	203,160	1,692	235,417
Foreign Countries -	75	24,244	80	19,157
Total -	1,698	249,533	1,856	278,893

being, on the whole, an improvement which speaks well for the commercial prosperity of the Colony.

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Agriculture.

7. Having already submitted, under the heads of Soil and Imports and Exports, a sufficiently-detailed explanation of the agricultural position of the Colony, I will here confine myself to a few remarks on prices and the rate of wages.

Prices.

8. I append a return showing the average prices of farm stock and of the various articles of produce and consumption for the years 1869 and 1870 respectively. It will be observed that the return exhibits an upward tendency, especially in respect of articles of daily household use, and that on the whole the cost of living is considerably higher than it was ten years ago:—

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF AVERAGE PRICES.

Articles.	Prices.					
	1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wheaten flour, per barrel of 196 lbs. -	1	10	0	1	13	4
Wheat, per imperial bushel -	0	6	8	0	7	0
Wheaten bread, per lb. -	0	0	2	0	0	2
Horned cattle -	5	0	0	4	0	0
Horses -	16	0	0	15	0	0
Sheep -	0	13	0	0	15	0
Goats -	1	0	0	0	12	0
Swine -	2	0	0	0	14	0
Milk, per quart -	0	0	2	0	0	2½
Butter, fresh, per lb. -	0	0	8	0	0	10
" salt " -	0	0	7½	0	0	9
Cheese -	0	0	6	0	0	6
Beef -	0	0	4	0	0	5
Mutton -	0	0	3	0	0	4
Pork -	0	0	3	0	0	4
Rice -	0	0	3	0	0	3½
Coffee -	0	0	8	0	1	0
Tea -	0	2	4	0	2	0
Sugar -	0	0	5	0	0	4½
Salt, per bushel -	0	1	4	0	1	4
Wine, per gallon -	0	12	6	0	14	0
Brandy -	0	16	0	0	16	0
Beer -	0	1	0	0	1	4
Tobacco, per lb. -	0	1	4	0	1	8

9. As connected with the cost of living, I may add that house rents are high and increasing, that gas costs 13s. 4d. per 1,000 feet, and good house coal 15s. 4d. per ton.

Wages.

10. The average rate of wages is as under:—

Description of Labour.	Per Annum.	Per Day.	
	£ s. d.	s. d.	
Prædial -	—	2 8	
Domestic:—			
Male -	20 0 0	—	
Female -	10 0 0	—	
Trades -	—	5 0	

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11. Domestic servants are scarce and indifferent, heads of families complaining that the moment servants begin to understand their duties they betake themselves to the United States, being attracted thither by the prospect of higher wages than are usually paid in Prince Edward Island.

PART IX.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The Colonial revenue is principally derived from ad valorem and specific import duties, land assessments, sales of public and Crown lands, licences, and fees. There are no direct taxes, with the exception of those on land.

2. The following is a list of the duties collected during 1870 on some of the chief articles of import :—

Articles.	Percentage ad valorem.			Specific Duties.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Anchors and chain cables - - - - -	1	0	0	—	—	—
Apothecaries' ware - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Boots and shoes - - - - -	12	10	0	—	—	—
Clothing - - - - -	12	10	0	—	—	—
Copper and composition - - - - -	2	0	0	—	—	—
Cordage - - - - -	2	0	0	—	—	—
Dry goods - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Earthenware and chinaware - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Flour, foreign, per bbl. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	1	0
Fruit, dried, per lb. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	0½
Glass and glassware - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Hardware and cutlery - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Iron, bar, and steel - - - - -	5	0	0	—	—	—
Ironmongery - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Leather, sole, per lb. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	0½
„ other kinds - - - - -	5	0	0	—	—	—
Molasses, per gal. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	2½
Mowing machines - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Oakum - - - - -	2	0	0	—	—	—
Oil, kerosene, per gal. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	5
„ linseed „ - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Paint - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Paper and stationery - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Sails and sail cloth - - - - -	2	0	0	—	—	—
Soap - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Spirits {	Brandy, per gal. - - - - -	—	—	0	3	0
	Gin „ - - - - -	—	—	0	2	8
	Rum „ - - - - -	—	—	0	1	4
	Whisky „ - - - - -	—	—	0	2	8
Stoves - - - - -	11	0	0	—	—	—
Sugar, refined, per lb. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	2
„ unrefined, per cwt. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	4	8
Tea, per lb. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	2½
Tobacco, manufactured, per lb. - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	4
„ unmanufactured „ - - - - -	—	—	—	0	0	2
Wines, claret and other light - - - - -	25	0	0	—	—	—
„ port and sherry, per gal., in addition to 5) - - - - -	5	0	0	0	2	8
per cent. ad valorem - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood wares - - - - -	12	10	0	—	—	—

3. The import duties are now considerably higher than they were last year, an additional rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. having been imposed by the Legislature on the 17th April, 1871, for railway purposes.

4. On improved and cultivated rural land the tax is $4s. 5\frac{1}{2}d.$ per 100 acres; on unimproved rural land, $6s. 2d.$ per 100 acres. The selling price of Government rural land varies, as stated elsewhere, from $4s.$ to $6s. 8d.$ per acre.

5. The licences established by Statute are as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Retail tavern licence - - - - -	2	6	8
Distiller's licence - - - - -	16	18	4
Store licence to sell spirituous liquors - - -	5	0	0
Hawker's licence to travel on foot - - -	1	13	4
" " " with a beast - - -	3	6	8

6. The fees received in the several executive departments are paid into the Treasury to the credit of the general revenue. The Lieutenant-Governor, the heads of executive departments, and their assistants in office, receive specific salaries under Statute, and do not retain any fees for their own use. I subjoin a Table of the fees now exacted at the different public offices :—

A TABLE of FEES exacted at the PUBLIC OFFICES, under STATUTE.

Description.	Fees at Colonial Secretary's Office. Sterling.	Fees at Custom House. Sterling.	Fees at Land Office. Sterling.	Fees at Registrar's Office. Sterling.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The Great Seal of Prince Edward Island	0 7 9	—	—	—
Ditto to grants of land - - -	0 6 8	—	—	—
The Lieutenant-Governor's Seal - -	0 6 8	—	—	—
A licence to marry - - -	0 7 9	—	—	—
" distil spirituous liquors - -	0 7 9	—	—	—
" vend " - - -	0 7 9	—	—	—
" hawk merchandise " - - -	0 7 9	—	—	—
Other licences - - -	0 7 9	—	—	—
Certificate ship registry - - -	—	0 3 4	—	—
Bill sale of ship - - -	—	0 1 6	—	—
Miscellaneous certificates - - -	—	0 1 6	—	—
Declaration, ship - - -	—	0 0 8	—	—
Fishing licence - - -	—	—	0 6 8	—
Search - - -	—	—	0 0 8	—
Certificate registry of deed - - -	—	—	—	0 0 8
Registry of deeds, per 100 words - -	—	—	—	0 0 8
Affidavit - - -	—	—	—	0 0 8
Search - - -	—	—	—	0 0 8

7. Below will be found comparative statements in detail of the revenue and expenditure for 1869 and 1870, and a Table showing, in round numbers, the financial condition of the Colony for the last ten years.

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1.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE for 1869-70.

Nature of Tax or Duty.	Amount collected in 1869.			Amount collected in 1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duties	44,088	15	5	46,225	11	8½
Light and anchorage dues	704	11	3	733	15	6
Land assessments	2,565	10	3	3,081	17	4½
Sale of public lands	5,258	10	10	8,017	16	0
" Crown lands	19	8	2½	46	3	11
Post Office	1,541	10	0	1,566	13	4
Fees at Secretary's office	333	16	9	157	19	7½
" Registrar's office	292	8	8½	260	12	4
" Custom House	34	0	6½	35	6	0
" bonded warehouse	69	7	11	90	10	0
" Prince of Wales College	9	6	10	33	12	0½
" land assessment	2	10	4	2	13	6
Licence duty at Treasury	428	0	0	487	6	8
Fines and penalties	45	15	4½	77	19	5½
Interest on bonds	876	8	3½	992	0	0
Wharfage	1	9	10	56	0	1½
Sale of military barracks	1,174	4	3	—	—	—
Seed grain Committee	164	19	4	67	0	3½
Fees, Normal School	10	13	4	—	—	—
Interest at Savings Bank	573	13	4½	—	—	—
Rent of Warren Farm	37	0	8	18	10	4
Souris Breakwater	23	12	0	—	—	—
Victoria Barracks	960	19	4	—	—	—
Moneys returned Loan Act	—	—	—	82	8	8
" " for ammunition	—	—	—	34	0	5
Rent of wharves	—	—	—	110	13	3½
Miscellaneous	12	13	4	31	17	4
Total	£59,326	6	8	62,230	8	7½

2.—COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE for 1869-70.

Nature of Expenditure.	Amount of Expenditure in 1869.			Amount of Expenditure in 1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Education	13,947	15	11	12,924	18	4
Roads, bridges, and wharves	10,549	1	2	13,149	10	6
Public officers	5,136	13	3	6,817	11	10
Interest	6,754	4	1	7,974	18	4½
Mails and Post Offices	3,578	9	7	3,754	17	11½
Legislature and library	2,397	4	6	2,666	4	2
Public lands	515	3	8	351	19	3½
Printing and stationery	1,142	10	4	1,091	0	7½
Asylum and hospital	1,020	11	0	994	1	7½
Lighthouses, buoys, and beacons	839	5	3	900	7	10½
Jails and Crown prosecutions	1,168	5	8	582	6	2
Paupers	709	8	11	681	8	10
Volunteers and militia	1,468	9	8	1,377	17	10
Telegraph Company	430	1	8	763	17	2
Government House	417	18	4	223	2	6
Excise department	697	17	8	459	2	10½
Colonial building	461	6	2	519	13	6½
Stock farm and society	553	6	8	637	11	6½
Coroners' inquests	104	14	2½	101	6	5½
Market clerk, Georgetown	3	6	8	—	—	—
Board of Health	154	16	5	180	19	10½
Indians	80	0	0	113	6	8
Loan Act and Treasury Note Commissioners	157	3	8	—	—	—
Elections	43	2	4½	586	13	6½
Executive Council	73	5	4	98	16	10½

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE for 1869-70—continued.

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Nature of Expenditure.	Amount of Expenditure in 1869.	Amount of Expenditure in 1870.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fishing licences - - - - -	5 0 7	—
Dredging - - - - -	195 18 8	—
Revised Statutes - - - - -	38 4 0	—
Deaf and Dumb Institution - - - - -	33 6 8	33 6 8
Debentures for land - - - - -	7,333 6 8	4,933 6 8
Bonded warehouse - - - - -	62 4 5	124 17 9
Board of Works - - - - -	313 10 8½	130 17 10
Steam stone crusher - - - - -	615 8 8	—
Distribution at Treasury - - - - -	579 19 6	433 17 0
Grant to Steam Navigation Company - - - - -	591 17 9½	783 6 8
Banquet to Prince Arthur - - - - -	584 11 1½	83 9 7
Estates purchased - - - - -	936 6 10½	162 5 5
Poor-house - - - - -	266 13 4	440 13 4
Law Courts and Post Office, Charlottetown - - - - -	—	4,99 3 8
Miscellaneous - - - - -	884 5 2	1,557 15 1
Total - - - - -	£64,244 16 4	70,662 14 1½

3.—STATEMENT of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE from 1860 to 1870 inclusive.

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£.	£.		£.	£.
1860	28,742	41,196	1866	63,628	102,888
1861	28,006	32,799	1867	52,018	49,309
1862	25,600	34,190	1868	55,594	61,616
1863	41,126	36,440	1869	59,326	64,244
1864	44,216	38,574	1870	62,230	70,662
1865	45,360	48,350			

8. The foregoing Tables, 1 and 2, give the following results:—

REVENUE.

1869.	1870.	Increase.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
59,326 6 8	62,230 8 7½	2,904 1 11½

EXPENDITURE.

1869.	1870.	Increase.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
64,244 16 4	70,662 14 1½	6,417 17 9½

DEFICIT.

Revenue, 1870.	Expenditure, 1870.	Deficit, 31st Dec., 1870.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
62,230 8 7½	70,662 14 1½	8,432 5 5½

9. The statement of revenue and expenditure (Table 3) shows that the revenue has been increasing since 1860 at an average rate of 2,400*l.* a year. As regards the expenditure, which is also considerably higher than it was ten years ago, it may be remarked that the purchase of freehold estates, adverted to in a former paragraph,

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formed a heavy item in the recent disbursements of the Colony. Indeed the purchase of the Palmer estate it was which, added to an unusually heavy outlay on public works and buildings, caused the deficit as set forth in the last preceding paragraph.

10. The revenue of the island amounted in 1870 to 13s. 3d. per head on the population as shown by the last census; the taxation proper to 10s. 5½d.

Local Revenues.

11. The only local revenue is that collected by the city of Charlottetown, which amounted last year to 2,770l. 12s. 11d. The expenditure for the same period (3,268l. 8s.) exceeded the revenue by 497l. 15s. 1d.

12. The financial position of the city on the 31st December, 1870, was as under:—

Dr.				Cr.			
Debentures afloat 31st Dec.,	£	s.	d.	By balance in treasurer's	£	s.	d.
1870 - - - - -	3,919	6	8	hands - - - - -	29	0	0
Interest due on ditto - - -	106	9	0	By assessment unpaid - - -	174	1	6
Sundry accounts unpaid - -	468	10	6	By steam fire-engines and			
Balance of property in				engine-houses - - -	1,783	6	8
excess of liabilities - - -	1,522	2	0	By other property - - -	4,080	0	0
	£6,016	8	2		£6,016	8	2

Public Debt.

13. It has been shown that the revenue for 1870 fell short of the expenditure by 8,452l. This deficit, added to the balance against the Colony on the 31st December, 1869 (97,257l.) made a total public debt on the 31st December, 1870 (inclusive of Treasury Notes, Warrants, and Debentures issued up to that date), of 105,689l.* against which, however, may be placed 62,977l., due on account of land sales, and 99,657 acres of unsold land.

Banks.

14. There are three banks in Charlottetown, one in Summerside, and one in the village of Rustico; namely:—

Name of Bank.	Date of Incorporation.	Limit of Capital Stock.	Assets.			Liabilities.			Last Dividend.			Amount of reserved profits at date of last dividend.	Bills due and not paid, and considered doubtful.			
									When declared.	Rate.	Amount.					
		£	£	s.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Charlottetown:—																
Bank of P. E. Island	1855	40,000	88,810	10	64,479	18	2	Dec. 4, 1871	5 per cent.	1,000	0	0	4,229	10	11	
Union Bank - -	1863	40,000	80,245	0	77,237	0	0	Dec. 1, 1871	5	"	1,000	0	0	3,008	0	0
Merchants' Bank* -	1871	40,000														
Summerside:—																
Summerside Bank -	1865	40,000						Aug. 6, 1867	4 per cent.	274	15	0	536	3	6	1,575 19 2
Rustico:—																
Farmers' Bank - -	1863	14,133						Feb. 16, 1871	5	"	91	2	8	42	16	2
																Nil.

* No return, bank not having been six months in operation.

15. I regret the incompleteness of the above return, but the statements of assets and liabilities, for which I have applied to the

* Equal to 1l. 2s. 5½d. per head on the total population.

managers of the Summerside and Rustico banks, have not yet been received.

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Savings Bank.

16. A savings bank in connection with the Treasury Department was established here in 1864, and has proved remarkably successful, as will be seen from the following return :—

Year ending	Population.*	No. of Depositors.	Total amount of Deposits.			Average to each Depositor.			Proportion of Depositors to Population.
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
31st Dec., 1864	85,121	85	1,013	6	8	11	18	5	1 in 1001
" " 1865	86,535	292	3,822	3	7	13	1	9	1 " 296
" " 1866	87,949	421	7,470	9	7	17	14	10	1 " 208
" " 1867	89,363	606	9,390	1	11	15	9	10	1 " 112
1st " 1868†	90,777	831	13,107	8	1	15	15	5	1 " 109
" " 1869	92,191	1,158	17,658	2	2	15	4	11	1 " 79
" " 1870	93,605	1,619	27,540	16	7	17	0	2	1 " 57
" " 1871	94,021	2,185	44,609	9	0	20	8	0	1 " 43

* Estimated as regards the years 1864 to 1870 inclusive, the census not having been taken between 1861 and 1871.

† Termination of official year altered from 31st to 1st December by Statute.

17. Interest at the rate of five per cent. is paid to depositors on all sums not exceeding 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, sterling,* beyond which amount no interest is allowed.

18. Until last session the deposits receivable at the bank were limited to 33,333*l.* 12*s.*, sterling.† By virtue of an Act passed on the 4th March, 1871, the bank is now authorized to receive up to double the above amount, and should the marked success which has attended the working of this most valuable institution lead to the opening of branch offices in one or two of the principal country towns, it may fairly be expected that the benefits of the system will be even more largely availed of hereafter than they have been up to the present time.

Coin, &c., in circulation.

19. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony, including that in the coffers of the banks, is estimated at 22,000*l.*; the paper currency at 89,690*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Treasury Notes - - - - -	11,500	0	0
Notes of Bank Prince Edward Island - -	31,765	15	0
" Union Bank - - - - -	21,480	15	0
" Summerside Bank - - - - -	12,073	16	3
" Farmers' Bank - - - - -	4,869	18	0
" Government Treasury, and of private banking companies of the British American Colonies (estimated) -	6,000	0	0
Notes of United States (estimated) - -	2,000	0	0
Total - - - - -	£89,690	4	3

* 100*l.* currency.

† 50,000*l.* currency.

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Currency.

20. I am happy to state that the currency of Prince Edward Island* is about to be assimilated to that of Canada and the United States, an Act having been passed during the last session of the Legislature to effect this important object by the introduction of a decimal system of keeping the public accounts.

21. The following is a copy of the Decimal Currency Act, 34 Vict., cap. 5, which is to come into full operation on the 1st February next, and will, there is no doubt, be of much public convenience and advantage:—

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DECIMAL SYSTEM OF CURRENCY ON THE ISLAND.

[Passed April 17, 1871.]

Whereas it is deemed expedient to assimilate the currency of this Island to that of the Dominion of Canada and of the United States of America, and to introduce a decimal system of keeping accounts in the public offices of this Colony:

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

I. The unit of account on this Island shall be the dollar of 100 cents; the value of which dollar shall be on the basis of 486 cents and two-thirds of a cent to the pound of British sterling money.

II. The accounts at all public offices on this Island shall be changed and kept on the decimal system, which shall go into operation at the times following:—For accounts kept at the savings bank, at the public Treasury, on the first day of December next. For the accounts kept at all Post Offices, the Money Order Office, and at all Excise Offices, and all other public offices, except the Treasury, on the first day of January next. For all accounts kept at the public Treasury, on the first day of February next.

III. The Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, is hereby authorized to empower the Commissioners for issuing Treasury Notes, to have suitable notes of the decimal currency prepared and signed, the same to be exchanged with the Colonial Treasurer for the Treasury Notes already in circulation, for the purposes of this Act.

IV. Gold and silver coins shall be a legal tender at the rates set forth in the Schedule A. hereunto annexed.

V. The Lieutenant-Governor, in Council, is hereby empowered to provide a coinage of copper cents for this Island, and to cause postage stamps of the new denomination to be issued as soon as practicable.

VI. The Act of 12 Vict., cap. 24, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed. Provided always, that this Act is not intended to interfere with debts already due, or with existing contracts, but the same may

* 100l. sterling	plus 50 per cent., equal to	150l. currency.
100l. Nova Scotia currency	" 20 " "	120l. "
100l. New Brunswick "	" 20 " "	120l. "
100l. Newfoundland "	" 25 " "	125l. "
100l. United States "	equal to - - -	80l. "

be converted into the equivalent value of the new currency hereby established, at and after the rate of three dollars and twenty-four and four-ninth cents to the pound of the present currency of this Island.

VII. From and after the first day of January next, all and singular the duties imposed by the Act passed or to be passed during the present session, intituled or to be intituled "An Act for raising a "revenue," shall be payable in the currency as defined by this Act.

Schedule A.

The British sovereign of the weight and fineness now established by law, four dollars and eighty-six and two-third cents. The crown piece of silver, one dollar and twenty cents. The half-crown piece, sixty cents. The florin, forty-eight cents. The shilling, twenty-four cents. The sixpence, twelve cents. The American gold dollar, one dollar. The Mexican and Spanish silver dollar, one dollar. The Spanish doubloon, sixteen dollars. The Mexican doubloon, fifteen dollars and forty cents. The twenty franc gold piece, three dollars and eighty cents. The five franc silver piece, ninety cents. The Canadian silver coinage, at its facial value.

22. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have observed that the above Act contains no provision fixing the amounts to which silver and copper coins, respectively, may be tendered in any one payment; and they have suggested that the limits prescribed in section 7 of the Canada Act, cap. 4 of 1871 should be adopted in Prince Edward Island, viz.:—\$10 for silver and 25 cents for copper coins.

23. It also appears to their Lordships that the "American gold dollar" mentioned in Schedule A. of the Act should be defined, e.g., as "the gold dollar of the United States of America, coined after 1st July, 1834, and before 1st January, 1852, or after the latter date, but of the same weight and standard of fineness." And they consider that it would be better to exclude all silver *foreign* coins from circulation in the Colony, but that if the Mexican and Spanish silver dollars be admitted, those coins should be strictly defined.

24. The amendments suggested by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will be submitted to the Legislature at an early date.

PART X.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Post Office.

1. I submit a comparative statement of postal and money order statistics for 1869 and 1870, which shows that a considerable extension of the mail service has been effected during the last two years.

2. Of newspapers, packets, and book parcels (no record of such

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being kept at the Post Office) I have been unable to procure a return.

	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Number of letters carried - -	503,000	511,000	8,000	—
" post offices - - -	121	138	17	—
" persons employed in } General Post Office - - - }	4	5	1	—
Number of country postmasters -	120	137	17	—
" mail carriers - - -	37	41	4	—
" miles travelled by mails -	511	534	23	—
" miles of annual mail } travel - - - - - }	97,057	98,172	1,115	—
Number of money orders issued -	652	638	—	14
" money orders paid - -	286	303	17	—
<hr/>				
Total amount of orders issued - -	£ 4,184 18 6	£ 3,941 1 0	—	£ 243 17 6
" amount of orders paid - -	1,153 14 8	1,091 15 4	—	61 19 4
" income of post office - -	1,541 10 0	1,566 13 4	25 3 4	—
" expenditure of post office } (including subsidies to mail } steamers) - - - - - }	4,086 1 3	4,174 9 6	88 8 3	—

Militia.

3. The militia consists of 16 regiments, seven for Queen's County, five for King's County, and four for Prince County, but as the men are neither armed nor drilled (the law merely requiring that the regiments shall muster without drill on one day in the year), the force is of no service to the country, except in so far as it may serve as a nucleus capable of expansion, should occasion unhappily arise. The fault does not lie either with the officers or with the men, amongst whom there is no want of zeal; but unfortunately the Legislature does not appear to be alive to the importance of providing for the protection of the Colony, and on the amount annually voted for militia purposes it is impossible that an efficient force can be maintained.

4. At the last annual muster of the militia, the total number of officers and men present was 12,421, being 122 less than on the previous occasion.

5. Of volunteers there are nine companies of 50 men each. These men are armed and accoutered, and present a creditable appearance. The effectives (the qualification for an effective being attendance at 16 drills in the course of the year) receive the insignificant sum of 13s. 4d. a head per annum for clothing. Arms and ammunition are provided for the volunteers at the Government expense, but the rifles are of the old muzzle-loading (Enfield) pattern, and would be of little service against an enemy armed with a more modern weapon.

6. I submit a return of the enrolled and effective members in each company of the volunteer militia for 1870.

7. I have lately been engaged in considering certain changes in the composition of the volunteer companies, which will, I hope, enable me to draw attention to a less unsatisfactory state of things in my next Annual Report.

8. The total annual expense of the militia department is 1,000*l*.

sterling, that being the sum allowed by the Legislature for purposes of defence.

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Corps.	No. enrolled.	No. effective.
1st Troop Mounted Rifles - -	44	36
2nd " " " " - -	52	24
1st Battery Artillery - -	51	7
2nd " " " " - -	53	7
No. 1 Company Rifles - -	53	0
No. 2 " " " " - -	52	3
No. 3 " " " " - -	53	9
No. 4 " " " " - -	47	21
No. 5 " " " " - -	50	2
Total - - - -	455	109

Conclusion.

9. Prince Edward Island still holds aloof from the union of the North American Provinces, the proposals made by the Government of Canada in 1869, commonly known as the "better terms," having been rejected by a large majority of the local Legislature. I am, however, disposed to think that Confederation is now only a question of time, and that the people (without whose spontaneous acquiescence it is, I admit, impossible that the union can ever be successfully effected) will eventually see that their best interests would be promoted by the change. "That in time of war or tumult the "armed force of the British North American Provinces should be one, "under one supreme command; that in time of peace their commerce, "their post, their great lines of communication, and, with due regard "to local usage, their civil and criminal jurisdiction, should be governed "by the same rules; that an extended public opinion should be "brought to bear on the settlement of narrow local controversies; and "that the affairs of British North America should be administered "by a combination of the ablest men whom it can furnish"—are benefits so indisputable, and so permanent in their character as to render it difficult to believe that Prince Edward Island will long permit any surmountable obstacles to interfere with their full attainment. Adverting to the question of Confederation, Sir Charles Adderley, in his 'Review of Earl Grey's Colonial Policy,' remarks, "A combined revenue will command great credit, while adding to "itself by greater economy;" and this, too, is an argument the weight of which will sooner or later be appreciated.

10. This report embraces many subjects not included in the Blue Book. Its accuracy may, I think, be relied on, and I hope it will be found useful as a record from which to mark the future progress of the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Lt.-Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

* Earl of Carnarvon to Lieut.-Governor Dundas, 19th January, 1867.

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No. 3.

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No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HILL, C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 88.)

Government House, Newfoundland,
December 5, 1871.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book, in duplicate, of Newfoundland, for the year 1870, to which I have appended observations on the different heads therein enumerated.

I am happy to be able to state that the past year may be looked upon as one of great prosperity in this Colony, and that the state of her affairs has improved considerably during the past three years.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

STEPHEN J. HILL

1. *Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.*

No special changes, except a slight reduction in duties on flour and bread, have taken place in the year 1870. An import tax is the only duty levied, with the exception of light dues, which are collected under the authority of an Act, 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 5. There are no export duties in force in the Colony.

2. *Fees.*

The fees payable under certain circumstances to the public officers were established prior to the introduction of a Legislature into the Colony, and have since undergone no alteration. Fees in the Vice-Admiralty Court are similar to those prescribed for Courts of Vice-Admiralty abroad.

3. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for the past year, notwithstanding the reduction of 10,000*l.* taxes on flour and bread, was greater than that of any former year, having reached the large sum of 183,289*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* British sterling. This great increase in the revenue, as compared with several years prior to 1869, was owed almost altogether to the good seal and cod fisheries, which saved the bulk of the population from poverty, and provided them with means to supply themselves with a stock of the necessaries of life. The demand for articles of food, and especially for items under the head of "dry goods," was very great, and consequently swelled the revenue to an extent which those conversant with

the affairs of Newfoundland could not have anticipated. The expenditure of the year amounted to 147,844*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* sterling, somewhat in excess of the usual estimate. There is exhibited an extraordinary charge of nearly 8,000*l.* for repairing damage caused by destructive fires which raged in the woods during the summer months, and by extensive floods, which, in the month of September, carried away bridges and rendered roads impassable, and necessitated a large outlay. But for this unexpected demand on the public funds, the expenditure for the year 1870 would have differed but little from that of former years. I do not observe under the foregoing head any other points which call for particular comment.

4. *Comparative Yearly Statements of Revenue and Expenditure.*]

As compared with the year 1869, the Customs revenue for 1870 shows a large increase, and a slight excess in the light dues is perceptible. The balance of the floating debt, viz. 16,600*l.*, has been paid, and notwithstanding an increase in the expenditure, owing principally to the item alluded to under the preceding head, a considerable surplus remained in the hands of the Treasury at the end of the past year.

5. *Local Revenues.*

There is no municipal or other body authorized to raise and appropriate any local revenue except under the control of the Governor in Council, under Acts for the introduction of water into St. John's, and provision for sewage therein; special provision is made for payment of these services by local rates and assessments on ground rents and other real property, and these are fixed by the Government.

6. *Public Debt.*

The debt of the Colony amounted to \$1,162,818·03 at the end of the past year. That portion of it which fell due in the year in question was paid off. Of the total amount of the public debt a sum of \$318,302·22 has been under several Acts consolidated; a sum of \$1,585·88 is the amount of unpaid debentures issued under Act 25 Vict., cap. 3, for compensation for losses sustained by election riots in certain districts, and payable out of future road grants; and the balance of the Colonial debt, amounting to \$842,929·93, is repayable in various years from 1871 to 1892.

There is a large portion of the public debt, viz. \$317,733·70 falling due in 1873, which will have to be paid by a new loan bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. This loan will in all probability be readily taken up. I, however, think that the holders of the present debentures of the sum in question will be glad to renew them for a further term of twenty years. I may here remark that all the debentures issued for the public debt of this Colony are held solely by the people of Newfoundland.

The total debt I do not consider large, as the revenue now averages \$700,000 annually, and as that amount pays all the current expenses and the interest of the public debt, leaving a balance for improve-

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ments, the financial affairs of Newfoundland may therefore be considered in a sound and healthy condition.

7. *Military Expenditure.*

The troops were withdrawn from the Colony during the past year. The cost of the garrison recently stationed at St. John's was defrayed from Imperial funds. There is no militia force in existence in Newfoundland, and although some companies of Rifle Volunteers were formed when the movement was first agitated in England, all interest in their perpetuity seems to have disappeared.

8. *Public Works.*

A lighthouse, since completed, was in course of construction at Ferryland Head during the year 1870.

The light was exhibited for the first time on the 1st October, 1871. It is a white light of the third order, burning on a brick tower 200 feet above the level of the sea, visible in favourable weather 16 nautical miles. The lighthouse is situated in latitude 47° 0' 58" N., and longitude 52° 51' 7" W. The tower is built of red bricks. The keeper's dwelling detached from the tower is painted white and the roof red. Since the exhibition of this light commanders of vessels report it as most brilliant, being visible at a distance of nearly 18 miles.

9. *Legislation.—Laws, Proclamations, &c.*

Thirteen Ordinances were passed by the local Legislature during the year 1870. These Acts were transmitted to England on the 5th July of the same year, with the usual report from the Crown Law Officer; having received Her Majesty's sanction, and not being of unusual character, require now no special comment. Proclamations and Orders in Council received from the Colonial Office, which required promulgation, were published in the 'Royal Gazette,' and all documents connected with the laws of neutrality in reference to the hostilities which had broken out between France and Prussia, received, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the widest publicity.

10. *Political Franchise.*

Occupation of a dwelling house as owner or tenant for two years immediately preceding the day of election is the qualification necessary for a voter in this Colony. The qualification of members of the House of Assembly is defined by the Imperial Statute, 5 & 6 Vict., c. 120, s. 1, and is as follows:—"A net annual income arising from any source whatever of 100*l.*, or the possession of property clear of all incumbrances exceeding 500*l.* in amount or value."

The Statute also enacts that any person wishing to be put in nomination as a candidate must have occupied a dwelling house as owner or tenant thereof for the period of two years next immediately preceding the day of election. The constitution granted to the Island

in 1832 established nine electoral districts, returning fifteen members, but by local Act of Victoria cap. 3, Burgeo and La Poile were constituted one electoral district, and total number of members increased to thirty.

11. *Councils and Assembly.*

On the 14th February, 1870, a new Government, under the leadership of Mr. Charles Fox Bennett, was formed, consisting of the following members, viz. :—Mr. Charles Fox Bennett, Premier, Mr. James S. Clift, Mr. Thomas Talbot, Mr. Thomas Glen, Mr. Henry Renouf, Mr. Joseph J. Little, and Mr. Robert Alsop.

Mr. Clift was a member of the Legislative Council and the other gentlemen members of the House of Assembly. Mr. Talbot was, however, on a vacancy occurring in the Legislature, soon after the formation of the new Executive Council, removed from the House of Assembly to the Upper Chamber, and subsequently Mr. Alsop, who having been appointed Colonial Secretary, was rejected on appealing to his constituents.

The venerable President of the Legislative Council, Mr. Lawrence O'Brien, died in the month of April, 1870, and was succeeded by Mr. Edward Morris, senior member of the Council. Mr. Augustus Harvey, Mr. Robert Thorburn, Mr. Thomas Talbot, and Mr. Robert Alsop were appointed members of this Council during the year.

In the House of Assembly few changes occurred. Mr. Lewis Tessier was elected for the district of St. John's West, without opposition, in the room of Mr. Henry Renouf, who at the general election of November 1869 had been elected for two districts. On appealing to his constituents, Mr. R. Alsop was defeated by Mr. John Warren for the district of Trinity Bay. No further changes of note took place in the foregoing bodies during the year 1870.

12. *Civil Establishment.*

Few changes have taken place in the above establishment. The officials of the Colony perform their duties with zeal and ability, and are in many cases inadequately remunerated for the performance of arduous labours. The Government, although most anxious to bestow ample salaries on their officers, are obliged, owing to the precarious revenue, to curtail the public expenditure as much as possible.

13. *Officers who have given Security for the Discharge of their Duties.*

The Receiver-General gives security for the due performance of his duties, under local Act 18 & 19 Vict., cap. 6 (uniting offices of Collector and Treasurer).

Customs' officers give security under Customs' Management Act.

Sheriffs under Sheriffs' Act (local) 10 Vict., cap 3. Cashier of savings bank, treasurer, clerk, postmaster and deputies, collector of water rates, and shipping master, under the following Acts or authorities :—Act for establishment of savings bank ; by order of Governor

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in Council; Act to regulate the inland post of the Colony; Water Company Act, 22 Vict., cap. 7; [and authority of the Board of Trade, respectively. Any other officers who give security usually do so before the Judges of the Supreme Court.

14. *Pensions.*

On the introduction of Responsible Government into this Colony, in 1855, Mr. E. M. Archibald, now British Consul at New York, vacated the office of Attorney-General, and was awarded a pension. In the following year Mr. B. G. Garratt was, in consequence of certain modifications having been effected in the office of Sheriff, placed on the pension list. A few awards are given to those who, from age or infirmity, are unable to fulfil the duties of office, or to persons who have rendered service to the Colony. Annuities of the following amounts, viz. 40*l.*, 30*l.*, and 30*l.* sterling respectively have been conferred upon three widows, whose husbands were killed while engaged in the performance of their duties. The pension list of Newfoundland appears extremely moderate.

15. *Abstract of Expenditure for Civil, Judicial, Ecclesiastical Establishments, &c.*

A sum of \$1,440 is paid from Imperial funds towards the maintenance of the Ecclesiastical Establishment. The expenses of the other establishments, amounting to \$708,212.77, fall on the colonial exchequer.

16. *Foreign Consuls.*

The following countries are represented by Consuls or Vice-Consuls:—Spain, the United States, German Empire, Sweden and Norway, Portugal, France, Denmark, and Italy. Spanish vessels, and occasionally Portuguese during the summer months, frequent the ports of St. John and Harbour Grace, and the coast of Labrador, for the purpose of conveying fish to good markets, usually the West Indies, Brazil, Spain, and the Mediterranean. The arrival of vessels of other nations is rare. The duties of the Consuls, therefore, with the exception of Señor Blanco, the Spanish Vice-Consul, are extremely light.

17. *Population.*

Several statistics under this head cannot be accurately or even roughly ascertained, owing to local difficulties. The interior of the Island, supposed to abound in lakes, called by the inhabitants ponds, is as yet unexplored, and the area thereof in square miles unknown. The population to the square mile cannot therefore be computed. The people are dispersed along the coast, their habitations being, as a rule, built not more than a mile or two from the sea, except in the peninsula of Avalon, where a few villages and houses of shelter are scattered here and there in the interior.

Although an Act of the Legislature, 28 Vict., cap. 5, providing

for an annual registration of births, marriages, and deaths, was passed, it was found that the frequent isolation of some of the districts* from the seat of Government, and other causes, rendered the required returns from many localities unreliable, and therefore useless for insertion in statistical tables. The Micmacs, the only Indian tribe in this country, number under 200.

18. *Savings Banks, Friendly Societies, Immigrants and Emigrants, &c.*

There is a savings bank in St. John's, with a branch at Harbour Grace; both establishments are extensively availed of. I find no institution in the Colony under the head of "Friendly Societies." Few persons immigrate to Newfoundland. A large number of female servants, during the year 1870, left the Island for America, where, attracted by the prospect of large wages and other advantages, these women hoped to better their circumstances. But the constant work and drudgery exacted from domestics, and the great cost of living as compared with this country, soon showed the overtaxed servant that her new home offered few, if any, advantages over that which she had just quitted. I hear that several young women have already returned, and that many others only await a favourable opportunity to leave the United States.

19. *Ecclesiastical Return.*

The statistical points connected with above return are clearly given in the Blue Book. With respect to the clergymen of the various religious denominations, too much praise cannot be given to those gentlemen who make so many sacrifices to further the great works of religion and education. Notwithstanding the severe climate and the attendant hardships, the pastors of the several creeds diligently pursue their respective avocations undeterred by frequent perils, and sometimes by the untimely fate of one of their brethren.

20. *Education, Newspapers, and Reviews.*

There are perhaps few colonies in which the rudiments of an elementary education are so readily afforded as in Newfoundland. The Government grants to the various district schools are liberal, and bring the attainment of reading, writing, arithmetic, and the management of accounts, within the easy reach of all the poorer classes. As a rule amongst the fishing population the women are better educated than the men. This is easily accounted for by the fact that a boy, as soon as he is able to handle an oar, is at once employed by his father to help him to manage his boat and catch fish, and the important matter of the son's education remains unheeded.

There are some institutions which offer a good classical and

* In some of the northern districts for several months during the winter the harbours are blocked with ice, and the roads, which scarcely deserve the name, impassable from heavy snow.

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mathematical education, and others which train, for the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, candidates for the priesthood of each religion. The nuns of the latter faith, with praiseworthy disinterestedness, devote themselves to the careful training of their flock, and those who can afford it may receive an excellent education from these accomplished ladies. I may add that the convent school at the French Island of St. Pierre is availed of by some parents in St. John's, and in a few instances persons of the Protestant Church have been tempted by the excellence of this institution to confide their daughters to the care of its inmates.

There are several newspapers published in St. John's, and one in Harbour Grace, but no review or magazine of any description has yet been offered to the public.

21. *Coins, Exchanges, &c., &c.*

The Act 26 Vict., cap. 18, providing for the issue of a local coinage, and for keeping accounts in dollars and cents., was brought into operation at the beginning of 1865. The local coins are five, ten, twenty, and fifty cent silver pieces, and two dollar or two hundred cent gold pieces; bronze cent coins, are also in circulation. British and American gold and silver moneys are made legal tenders. The doubloon, the Peruvian, Mexican, and Spanish dollars, and the several divisions of such coins are also made legal tenders. No tender of silver coins is valid to a greater extent, of British and foreign coinage, than ten dollars. The greater part of the trade of this country being effected by barter, it is difficult to estimate the amount of coin in circulation. It is conjectured to be from 80,000*l.* to 100,000*l.*

There are two banks established in the Colony, viz. "The Union Bank," and "The Commercial Bank," with a capital each of 50,000*l.* These establishments in the year ended the 31st May, 1870, circulated respectively bank notes to the amount of 126,529*l.*, and 54,309*l.* The directors of the former bank during the year in question declared a dividend of 10 per cent. to the holders of original shares, and the directors of the latter bank in the same period awarded their original shareholders a dividend of 8 per cent.

Exchange in the Colony varies according to circumstances, and to the demand for bills to remit to England in payment of goods, &c. &c. imported into the Colony. It is generally highest towards the close of the year. The demand is governed in a great measure by the result of the cod and spring seal fisheries. If successful, remittances are made chiefly in oil, if otherwise, bills of exchange are remitted.

22. *Imports and Exports.*

The value of imports and exports of this Colony in 1870 amounted to \$6,655,849 and \$6,230,276 respectively. The principal exports are codfish, cod and seal oils, seal skins, and of late years large quantities of copper ore have been shipped to England. The demand for this article has been so small during the past year, that several cargoes of it still remain unsold. The imports comprise almost every necessary and useful article.

23. *Shipping.*

The revenue in 1870 having been unprecedentedly large, it is almost unnecessary to state that the tonnage of vessels cleared and entered was unusually great, having amounted to over 300,000 tons.

24. *Agriculture, Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands, Wages, &c., &c.*

It has been frequently asserted that the agricultural capabilities of the Island are extremely small. Those who are acquainted with Newfoundland will be best able to appreciate the difficulty of giving a correct opinion on this point. Not only is there no map of the interior, but no general knowledge of it is to be had. The few roads which exist (except those in the peninsula of Avalon) are made along the coast, and lead but from one settlement to another. No roads have yet been constructed towards the interior. It seems to me, therefore, a somewhat bold assertion to affirm that a country of which so little is known can never become an agricultural country. Those who so assert, probably prefer the precarious but sometimes largely remunerative pursuit of fishing, to the toilsome, only moderately remunerative, but less precarious occupation of husbandry. My experience of this Colony tends to the belief, although its agricultural capabilities are not sufficiently great to tempt settlers to reside here, that fruitful results would be gathered by those who combined the pursuits of fishing and tillage. Then if the former failed (as it very often does) the latter would form a slight support. Unquestionably, if such a combination of occupations were more general throughout the island, the fearful distress which always follows a bad fishery would be greatly alleviated. The southern and eastern coasts, although presenting a bare and uninviting aspect, offer many desirable spots for cultivation, while the western shore abounds in extensive valleys rich with acres of fertile land.

The census of the Colony does not furnish the estimated acreage of cultivated and uncultivated land, nor is there any other source from whence it can be procured.

Female domestic servants receive about 12*l.* per annum, with board and lodging; servants employed as cooks receive about 24*l.* per annum, with board and lodging; tradesmen, such as masons, carpenters, &c., &c., are paid about 7*s.* per day; and labourers generally receive 3*s.* 6*d.* per day.

25. *Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.*

Manufactured goods are imported into the Colony from Great Britain and Canada. A geological survey of the Island is being made. The discoveries in this science tend to the belief that the country is rich in mineral wealth. A copper mine at Tilt Cove, in Notre Dame Bay, has been for the past five years successfully worked, and afforded employment to about 200 people. The small demand for copper in England has this year necessitated the discharge of nearly two-thirds of the miners. I have recently been informed that ores of nickel have been found in considerable quantities at the

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Tilt Cove Mine. With respect to the fisheries: the catch of cod in the year 1870 was the largest known for many years, and the seal fishery was considerably above the average. The quantity of dry codfish exported was about 1,000,000 quintals, valued at \$4,000,000. The consumption of fish in the Colony may be estimated at from 1½ to 2 quintals per head of the population per annum. The exports of cod and seal oils exceeded 9,000 tons, estimated at \$1,470,262.

26. *Grants of Land.*

The total number of acres granted in the Colony cannot be correctly ascertained, but those under rent are annually decreasing in number by purchasing in fee simple. The average cost of land per acre is 3s.

27. *Gaols and Prisoners.*

There are three prisons in the Colony, the chief of which is the St. John's Penitentiary. I have inspected this institution, and consider it an exceedingly well-kept and well-managed gaol. Crime is rare in the Island. The frequent empty cells of the gaols bear ample testimony to this fact.

28. *Hospitals.*

The St. John's Hospital has been condemned as unsuitable for patients, and a new building is about to be erected. The Military Hospital, which has been handed over to the Colony on the withdrawal of the troops, has been utilized.

29. *Lunatic Asylum.*

The manner in which the management of this institution is conducted, is commendable. The building having been found too small for the wants of the community, the Legislature during the last session voted a sum to defray the expense of an addition to the asylum. A wing to the present edifice is now in course of construction, and will be soon ready for the reception of inmates.

30. *Charitable and Literary Institutions.*

There are several benevolent and charitable societies in St. John's and Harbour Grace, among which may be named "Church of England Asylum for Widows and Orphans," "Benevolent Irish Society," "St. John's Industrial Society," "St. George's Society," "St. Andrew's Society," "Society of St. Vincent de Paul," "Dorcas Society," and many others, whose object is to mitigate the sufferings of the poor and the afflicted, and to minister to the wants and comforts of their respective members.

Conclusion.

In concluding my observations on the Blue Book of Newfoundland for the year 1870, I am happy to remark that her condition of affairs

has considerably altered for the better. During the year in question Providence has bestowed upon her excellent fisheries and good crops. The past year may therefore be safely considered as one of great prosperity in this Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL.

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

BERMUDA.

BERMUDA.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir T. GORE BROWNE,
K.C.M.G., C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 24.)

MY LORD, Government House, Bermuda, April 3, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year ending 31st December, 1870.

2. The exports were 36,756*l.*, against 33,624*l.* in the previous year, and the imports 232,300*l.*, against 212,811*l.*

3. The expenditure was 33,302*l.*, against 32,039*l.*; but, in 1870, 4,700*l.* was borrowed for the Causeway, against 1,000*l.* in 1869. Roads and works cost 1,943*l.*, against 1,828*l.* in 1869.

4. The revenue from rum shows a marked and progressive increase from the year 1865.

5. The only legislative Act requiring notice is that which provides for the sale of Devonshire College lands, the funds derived from which are to be placed in the hands of trustees for the purpose of founding two schools, one for the white, and the other for the coloured people.

6. The Causeway is approaching completion, and is likely to be opened for traffic in a few weeks. It will be of use to the inhabitants, but will be far more valuable to the military, enabling them to communicate certainly and rapidly between St. George's and the fortifications round Hamilton, instead of being dependent on the precarious services of a ferry-boat, not available in stormy weather.

7. In conclusion, I have only to observe that, though the commercial prosperity of Bermuda is not equal to that of some other colonies, the amount of poverty is very small in comparison with that of most other countries, and the people generally are remarkably happy and contented.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) T. GORE BROWNE.
The Earl of Kimberley, &c. &c. &c.

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

No. 5.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MUSGRAVE to The
EARL OF KIMBERLEY.(No. 66.)
MY LORD,Government House, British Columbia,
June 21, 1871.June 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1870, accompanied by a short commentary upon these statistics prepared by the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Hankin's report relieves me from the necessity of remarking upon matters of detail.

2. The year to which these returns refer was a period of transition, during which legislation and all departments of public affairs were more or less affected by the negotiations then in progress for the union of British Columbia with the Dominion of Canada. It seemed generally undesirable to initiate any modification of existing arrangements which might again require reconsideration on the accomplishment of the greater contemplated change. But, although some injurious effect upon trade may have been produced by uncertainty as to the result of the negotiations which were proceeding, and the possible change to the Canadian tariff, the year was fairly prosperous in respect of the material interests of the Colony. The explanation of the diminution of import duties is to be found quite as much in the increased production of articles of food and general consumption within our own borders, as in diminished consumption of imported merchandise.

3. Indeed, agriculture, stock raising, and the minor operations of husbandry, have been much and successfully extended, both on the mainland and on Vancouver Island; and applications for land for settlement have been numerous.

4. The older gold-fields at Cariboo and Kootenay are still productive, and give employment to a large number of miners, who conduct their enterprises upon more scientific systems than are found in "placer diggings." Although the results may not be so brilliant and attractive as in newer localities, they sufficiently reward steady and intelligent industry. But during the year reports were received of the discovery of "placer diggings" on the Findlay, Germansen, and other creeks or streams, tributaries of Peace River, in the northern part of the Colony. The first intelligence was viewed with some degree of doubt, as many such previous reports had been found to cause disappointment; but there now seems little reason to question that gold deposits have been found in the region of Peace River which have richly rewarded the first seekers, and bid fair to be as productive as the Cariboo district in the earlier days of the Colony. A large influx of mining population has been drawn by the news from the neighbouring states and territories, who are proceeding to these mines. Trade has been stimulated, and all branches of industry

have received an impetus. The local Government has endeavoured to facilitate communication with the Omineca district, as it is now called, and I have sent Mr. O'Reilly, the Chief Gold Commissioner, who is an experienced magistrate, to that place, to administer justice and ensure order, with instructions to report fully upon the prospects which are afforded, and the condition of the mining camps.

5. Renewed effort is being made by several companies to further develop the rich deposits of coal which Vancouver Island undoubtedly possesses, and I believe that in a short time many new mines will be in successful operation. One at least of the seams it is proposed to work produces coal of quality superior to that hitherto generally found, being in value for steam purposes about midway between Scotch and Welsh coal.

6. Upon the whole, your Lordship will see that the Colony is making progress, and will enter upon its new position as a Province of the Dominion with a bright promise for the future. Under the arrangements for union, the condition of the finances will be much improved. The public debt will be assumed by Canada, and the local revenue will be no longer affected by fluctuations in the receipts from Customs duties; while funds provided by the subsidies agreed upon, and from other sources of income, should be amply sufficient for lessened local requirements when relieved of the charges to be borne by the Federal Administration. I have little doubt that immigration, which is much desired, will be caused, at least to some limited extent, by the impending changes, and the attraction afforded by employment which may be obtained on the works to be soon commenced for the construction of the proposed railway. Already it is generally admitted that the value of property has increased, and new spirit has been largely infused into all branches of business undertakings. On relinquishing the administration of the Government after the union is completed, as will soon be the case, I shall do so in the belief, as well as the hope, that the progress of this magnificent Province, in prosperity and importance, will be both rapid and continuous.

I have, &c.,

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. MUSGRAVE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office, British Columbia,

SIR,

June 15, 1871.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the Annual Blue Book for the year 1870, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue for 1870 amounted to \$494,351, while that of 1869 was \$530,470, thereby indicating a decrease of revenue for the year 1870 of \$36,123.

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COLUMBIA.

This decrease has arisen from a falling off in the revenue derived from the following heads, viz.:—Customs, port dues, road tolls, excise duties, rents exclusive of land, free miners' certificates, sale of Government property, reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by the Government, and miscellaneous receipts.

A decrease is shown in the import duties of \$30,549, and there is but little doubt it may be attributed to a considerable extent to the anticipated introduction of the Canadian tariff.

Public Debt.

No decrease appears in the public debt; the whole of the liabilities of the Colony will be taken over by the Dominion of Canada on confederation.

Public Works.

No public works of any importance have been undertaken in the year 1870, further than the construction of the telegraph line from Sehome to Yale, at a cost of \$2,000, and repairs to the telegraph line to Cariboo, at a cost of \$7,000, together with the general repairs to the roads throughout the Colony, which was effected at a cost of about \$68,267.

Legislation.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed in the session of 1870; of the majority of these it is not necessary that I should even repeat the titles, as they have been already reported on by your Excellency to the Secretary of State. There were the usual Appropriation Acts, and of the remainder among the most worthy of note would appear "An Ordinance to create a further Duty of Customs," "The Courts Merger Ordinance," "The County Courts Amendment Ordinance," "The Land Registry Ordinance," and "The Land Ordinance." The Customs Amendment Ordinance was introduced by the Government for a specific purpose, viz. for the support of the interior telegraphic communication on the mainland, and confers on the Collector of Customs the power of collecting an additional tax of 50 cents a gallon on spirits.

The Courts Merger Ordinance was introduced by the Government on the resignation of the late Chief Justice of Vancouver Island, and provides for the merging of the Supreme Court of the mainland and of the Supreme Court of Vancouver Island, into the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and for the appointment of a Registrar and Deputy-Registrar.

The County Courts Amendment Ordinance provides for removing claims over 10*l.* to Superior Courts, and gives powers of County Court Judges to Judges of Superior Courts.

The Land Registry Ordinance provides for the registration of titles to land throughout the Colony, protection of trust estates, and transfer of registered estates.

The Land Ordinance relates to the disposal and regulation of the Crown Lands of the Colony, and repeals certain former Acts relative to the same. This was an important Act, and was much needed, in

order to put an end to the long-continued conflict of regulations which had heretofore existed respecting the mode of purchasing and otherwise acquiring land in the Colony direct from the Crown.

Education.

The public schools of the Colony are established and conducted under the provisions of the Common School Ordinances of 1869 and 1870, by which, on a petition to the Governor in Council, from two-thirds of the residents in any district, an appropriation of \$480 is made out of the moneys voted by the Legislature for educational purposes towards the salary of a teacher. Special grants are also made towards the erection, or renting, and furnishing of school premises. As a general rule one half of the expenses are defrayed out of the public revenue, the other half being raised by local exertions.

Power is given to the residents to meet the sums required, either by levying a poll tax of \$2 per annum, or by tuition fees of \$2 per month, or by voluntary subscription.

The principle of the system is the affording of help by the Government to those who are willing to help themselves. It rests with the people themselves to take advantage, or not, of the provisions of the school law; and although the Act has been in operation only two years, there is now (1871) hardly a settlement in the Colony without its school.

As regards religious teaching the schools are strictly non-sectarian, or rather non-denominational. The Christian religion is acknowledged as the foundation of the system, and general rules and regulations have been drawn up, wherein it is recommended that each school be opened and closed with prayer, a form of which is provided. The Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments are also to be repeated at least once a week, but the attendance at these religious exercises is entirely voluntary. The so-called "Religious difficulty" has not yet made its appearance, nor is it likely to do so, except upon a change of the system.

The amount voted for educational purposes for the year 1870 was \$10,000. The number of schools in operation during the year 1870 was 16; the number of children on the register was 510.

The text-books recommended to be used are those of the Canadian school series.

The schools are under the supervision of an Inspector-General, assisted by a local inspector, the duties being performed by officers of the Government without remuneration.

The system is very well adapted to the requirements of a small Colony, but it is expected that it will be shortly remodelled, and brought more into accord with the Upper Canadian system of education.

Savings Bank.

The savings bank established in June, 1869, is in a prosperous condition. The head office is in Victoria, and branch offices are established at Nanaimo, New Westminster, Yale, and Cariboo.

The offices are under the management of the magistrates, who con-

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duct the business of the office without remuneration. The rate of interest paid by the Government to the Commissioners is 6 per cent. per annum, and the depositors receive from the Commissioners 5 per cent. The balance of 1 per cent. in favour of the Commissioners provides stationery, &c., and covers the working expenses of the office. At the close of 1870 the Commissioners had invested with the Government \$79,000, which, considering the general depression of trade, may be allowed to speak well for the provident habits of the community.

Foreign Consuls.

The United States of America, Sandwich Islands, and North German Confederation, are the only countries represented by Consuls at this port.

Pensions.

The total expenditure on this account was \$2,910, \$2,425 being paid to Mr. Cameron, retired Chief Justice of Vancouver Island, and \$485 to Mrs. Ogilvy, whose husband was killed while in the execution of his duty.

Imports and Exports.

Goods to the value of \$1,608,636 were imported in 1870, as against \$1,776,622 in 1869, showing a deficiency in 1870 of \$167,985. There is but little doubt that trade has declined, but at the same time it must be remembered that a larger amount of home-grown produce is yearly being raised in the Colony, which naturally at first leads to a decrease in the imports.

Exports.

Value of the exports in 1870 was \$511,847, while in 1869 it was \$719,203, showing a falling off in 1870 of \$207,356.

Mining.

The amount of gold exported for 1870 by the banks is as follows:—

Bank of British North America	-	-	\$	330,120
Bank of British Columbia	-	-	-	423,482
Wells, Fargo, and Co.	-	-	-	264,168
Total	-	-	-	\$1,027,770

In addition to this, a large amount is always exported by private hands, a correct estimate of which it is difficult to obtain. "Germansen Creek," in the Omineca district, which was only discovered in 1869, is likely to prove a rich gold field. A considerable "rush" has already taken place there. The late reports are of a most favourable character, and a magistrate has now been sent to the district to report officially on the prospects of this new mining region.

The Cariboo mines are still being steadily worked with fair results, and many of the old creeks that have been latterly diminishing in importance, have been re-worked and found still to yield good pay.

In the Silloet, Clinton, and Yale District there are a great many Chinese miners, who work with rockers, and are satisfied with the small pay they find in return for their labour.

The Nanaimo coal mines are still progressing favourably, and have been advantageously worked during the past year. The yield of coal for exportation has been about 30,000 tons. The price of coal at the pit's mouth is \$6 per ton.

Police and Gaols.

No alteration has taken place in the state of the prisons at Victoria and New Westminster, except it be that a temporary lunatic asylum for females has been fitted up in the Victoria prison, under the charge of a female keeper, and made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. The health of the inmates has been generally good. Syphilis and pulmonary consumption appear to be most prevalent, and the latter disease generally seems to mark for its victims Indians who are sentenced to remain for a long period in prison.

The gaol is under the supervision of the Police Magistrate, but is a badly-constructed building, and small for the number of prisoners. There is no sick ward, and one of the cells is obliged to be utilized for that purpose.

Population.

The population as taken from the magisterial returns is 10,165, exclusive of natives, viz. 5,945 males and 2,872 females, and 1,548 Chinese. The native population may be roughly estimated at from 40,000 to 50,000. The white and coloured population show an increase of about 00·84 per cent. The native population (as is usually the case with the march of civilization) is decidedly on the decrease.

In concluding these remarks, I would draw attention to our fisheries, about the value of which a great deal has often been said, and very little been done. The salmon which abounds in the Fraser River and on our coasts is second in quality to none, and it is surprising that ere this it has not been more exported. Now, however, an enterprising firm has established a business on the Fraser River, and has entered into an arrangement with a house in London for supplying them with Fraser River salmon in tins.

The Oolachan, smelt, herring, rock cod, and various other kinds of fish abound; also crabs, prawns, oysters, and several other kinds of shell-fish.

I have no further remarks to make for your Excellency's information.

The probable future of British Columbia is full of promise. Capital and population will follow on Confederation with the Dominion of Canada, and tend to develop the resources of the country. The railway which will now certainly be built through British territory, uniting

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the Atlantic with the Pacific, will be a grand step in the career of steady progress, by which Her Majesty's dominions in North America will ultimately be peopled by one unbroken chain, with a loyal and industrious population.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PHILLIP J. HANKIN,
Colonial Secretary.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA
LEONE.
No. 6.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir ARTHUR E. KENNEDY, C.B.,
K.C.M.G., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 170.)

MY LORD,

Government House, October 14, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the duplicate of the Blue Book for 1870, the original of which was forwarded in a Despatch from the Colonial Secretary, No. 4, dated 23rd April, 1871.

Taxes and Duties, &c.

There has not been any alteration during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure

Does not call for any remark beyond those contained in the comparative statement at pages 54-5.

Public Debt

Consists of a number of small sums held in deposit.

Military Expenditure.

A considerable decrease has been effected.

Public Works.

No work of any magnitude has been undertaken, in consequence of the amount necessary for repairs and alterations.

The total amount expended was 4,396*l*.

Legislation.

But little has been done under this head, owing to the absence of a Queen's Advocate.

Councils and Assemblies.

All the vacancies which have occurred in the Legislative Assembly have been filled up by native merchants, who have acquitted themselves most creditably. Many have assisted me on various occasions in special or extraordinary Executive Councils.

Civil Establishment.

There is nothing under this head calling for special remark.

Education.

The subject of education has received the careful attention of the Legislative Council and the Executive; liberal provision has been made. Education generally has made marked progress during the year.

*Imports and Exports*SIERRA
LEONE.

Continue to show a state of prosperity.

Gaols and Prisoners.

Notwithstanding several failures in obtaining an efficient gaoler, there has been great improvement in the management and discipline in the gaol. There has been a marked decrease in the number of prisoners and convictions for petty crimes, since the treadmill and shot-drill have been more liberally used.

Much still remains to be done, but there is nothing substantially to be complained of.

Hospitals.

The Colonial Hospital is most carefully and creditably conducted, affording an immense amount of relief in sickness and disease.

General Remarks.

The progress of commerce and civilization goes on steadily and surely. The people are loyal, and obedient to the laws.

Peace and good feeling toward the British Government pervades the surrounding populations, and with a better prospect of being maintained than during any former period of West African history.

I have in the administration of my office received efficient aid from the public officers and cordial support from all classes of the community.

	I have &c.,	
The Earl of Kimberley,	(Signed)	A. E. KENNEDY,
&c. &c. &c.		Governor-in-Chief.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

No. 7.

No. 7.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the
GOVERNMENT to Sir ARTHUR E. KENNEDY, C.B.

(No. 70.)

SIR,

Government House, May 23, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year
1870, with the following Report.

Fees.

The system of paying some of the public officers partly by fees is still in force, but it would be far preferable to give a fixed salary and cause the fees to be paid into the Colonial Treasury, especially in the case of the Clerk of the Courts.

GAMBIA.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The sources of revenue are the same as for the last four years.

The trade in hides, once considerable, has greatly diminished, owing to cattle disease which prevailed a few years ago.

The amount of wax exported is less by half the quantity.

The importation of cash (on which there is no duty) instead of goods for the part purchase of ground nuts by some of the merchants is detrimental to the revenue.

The ground-nut crop for this year has been far better than that of 1869, and may be considered a fair average; there has been a large increase in the value exported by 38,000*l*.

The quantity of raw cotton exported has also been trebled.

The revenue does not include the Parliamentary grant of 1,000*l*, which ceases after this year.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for these Settlements, as furnished by the Treasurer:—

REVENUE.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Customs - - - -	15,431	7	5	Establishments:—			
Licences - - - -	940	0	0	Salaries Fixed - -	9,121	18	10
Rents, exclusive of Land	576	0	4	Provisional - -	216	8	6
Land Revenue - - -	250	19	6	Allowances - - -	470	16	10
Fines, Forfeitures, and				Office Contingencies - -	119	1	11
Fees of Court - -	132	12	7	Pensions, Retired Allow-			
Miscellaneous Receipts -	194	15	10	ances, &c. - - -	323	19	5
Reimbursements in aid -	45	11	3	Revenue Services (ex-			
Sale of Government				clusive of Establish-			
Property - - - -	79	6	3	ments) - - - -	208	17	9
Auction Duty - - -	46	1	8	Administration of Jus-			
Postage - - - - -	53	17	10	tice (exclusive of Es-			
Advances to Heads of				tablishments) - -	207	9	6
Departments - - -	1,675	16	7	Charitable Allowances -	150	19	0
Deposit Account - -	254	0	0	Education (exclusive of			
Local Improvements -	325	14	0	Establishments) -	347	12	7
				Hospitals (exclusive of			
				Establishments) -	458	17	3
				Police and Gaols (ex-			
				clusive of Establish-			
				ments) - - - -	697	5	1
Balance in Colonial	20,006	3	2	Rent - - - - -	152	12	9
Chest, Jan. 1, 1870 -	1,065	15	9	Transport - - - -	209	5	1
				Conveyance of Mails -	916	13	4
				Works and Buildings -	2,059	7	1
				Roads, Streets, and			
				Bridges - - - -	540	1	3
				Miscellaneous Services -	233	17	9
				Aborigines - - - -	665	7	5
				Drawbacks and refund			
				of Duties - - - -	100	18	8
				Special Services - -	181	7	7
				Remittances to Crown			
				Agents - - - -	2,000	0	0
				Advances to Heads of			
				Departments - - -	1,143	10	0
				Deposit Account - -	105	7	6
				Local Improvement -	107	11	7
					20,739	6	8
				Balance in Colonial			
				Chest, Dec. 31, 1870 -	332	12	3
Total - - - -	£21,071	18	11	Total - - - -	£21,071	18	11

An increase of expenditure was partly caused by the payments for the last quarter of the year 1870 having been made on 31st December, instead of being carried on, as hitherto, and paid out of the next year's revenue, so that 1870 was charged with five quarters' payments. This was done in order that, if for the future this system is carried on, the exact expenditure can be ascertained for each year independent of the preceding one.

Military Expenditure.

The troops having been withdrawn in the month of May, 1870, there exist no means of ascertaining the expenditure to that date.

Public Works.

The repairs to Government House were completed and it was refurnished; the other public buildings were attended to. Public latrines were constructed, the sea embankment at Halfdie repaired. New lamps and posts were placed in Buckle Street and at the corners of McCarthy's Square.

A gang of convicts, during the intervals of treadwheel or shot-drill, were daily put to work on the public roads.

A new chain was supplied to haul the ferry boat over the Oyster Creek.

Legislature.

The usual Supply Ordinance was enacted, also an Ordinance amending an Ordinance relative to moiety of fines being paid to constables; one extending the jurisdiction of the Court of Requests from 10*l.* to 50*l.*; another granting an allowance to troops in lieu of remission of Customs duties on goods imported for the garrison mess; also one to amend an Ordinance relating to promissory oaths; the Appropriation Ordinance for the service of the year 1871; also an Ordinance to provide a pension for Richard Pine, late Queen's Advocate; also an Act of Indemnity for acts done by Colonel Anton as Acting Administrator during the period he acted before receipt of commission; a supplemental Supply Ordinance; and one to provide a pension for John Campbell, gaoler.

Population.

As a census was taken on 1st of April, 1871, before the Blue Book was completed, the population has been inserted according to the number then inserted, it consists:—

	Whites.		Coloured and Black.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
St. Mary's, Bathurst	35	7	2,085	2,452	2,120	2,459
Combo	—	—	2,319	2,100	2,319	2,100
Barra or Ceded Mile	1	—	2,200	1,716	2,201	1,716
McCarthy's Island	2	—	645	616	647	616
Total	38	7	7,249	6,884	7,287	6,891

Total for the whole Settlements, 14,198.

GAMBIA.

Ecclesiastical.

There are three places for Divine worship at Bathurst.

1st. The Established Church.

2nd. The Roman Catholic Mission, self-supporting, with occasional aid from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in France.

3rd. Wesleyan Mission, supported by Wesleyan Society in England. The latter has the best attendance, then the Roman Catholic, last the Established Church; but since the arrival of the Rev. G. Nicol, Colonial Chaplain, a great improvement has taken place, owing to his zeal and energy; this gentleman is also exerting himself to impart religious instructions to the Sërërës.

The Ladies of Charity exercise a very beneficial influence in the community in taking care of and teaching female children, and are always ready to attend a sick bed—services invaluable in this climate, where restoration to health depends, in convalescence, so much on good nursing.

The Wesleyans have also chapels at Newcastle and Hamilton Town, which are visited every other Sunday by the Superintendent, and a chapel at M'Carthy's Island, with a minister.

Education.

Every encouragement is given to parents to send their children to the schools, of which there are several, male and female, at Bathurst for each denomination. I personally attended the public examinations of each, and was much pleased with the pains taken by the masters and superintendents to instruct the children.

The Episcopalian boys' school is conducted by a schoolmaster trained by the Church Missionary Society in England; he receives a salary of 60*l.* a year. The girls' school is superintended by the daughter of the Colonial Chaplain. The average daily attendance of boys is 58, of girls 22.

The Roman Catholic boys' school is conducted by two masters, trained lay brothers, under superintendence of the priest. The girls' school is under the care of the Sisters of Charity. The average daily attendance of boys is 63, of girls 43.

The Wesleyan boys' school in Dobson Street is taught by a master trained by the Wesleyan Missionary Society at Sierra Leone, his wife instructs the girls; the whole is under the superintendence of the Wesleyan minister. The average daily attendance of boys is 62, of girls 64.

The Wesleyans have also schools at—

Barra - - -	average attendance of boys 13, girls 13.
Bakkow Konko -	" " 25, " 16.
Cape St. Mary's -	" " 15, " 18.
M'Carthy's Island -	" " 32, " 17.

These schools are under the superintendence of the Wesleyan minister, and are conducted by trained teachers, but of no standard of qualification. The school records of the Wesleyan Mission were found, on an unexpected visit of examination by me, to be kept in the most accurate manner.

There are no schools (day) beyond the above in the Settlement.

The Established Church and Wesleyans have also Sunday Schools, which are well attended.

Each denomination is granted 100*l.* by the Legislature in aid of education.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports has been 91,996*l.* 12*s.*, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
From Great Britain - - - -	45,463	15	1
„ British W. Indies - - - -	387	9	9
„ Leeward Coast, including S. Leone	13,743	17	9
„ France - - - -	12,962	1	11
„ United States of America - -	4,477	13	0
„ Windward Coast, including Goree and Senegal - - - -	14,961	14	6
	<u>£91,996</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>

Showing a decrease, as compared with the year 1869, of 3,030*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*

The amount of imports in 1869 was 94,027*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

Exports.

The value of the exports has been 142,517*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Produce and manufacture of the Colony -	134,314	0	10
British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufacture - - - -	8,203	15	1
	<u>£142,517</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>

Showing an increase, as compared with the year 1869, of 33,205*l.*

12*s.* 10*d.* The amount in 1869 was 109,312*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*

This is owing to a larger ground-nut crop this year.

Shipping.

There has not been much variation in the number of vessels arriving and clearing from Bathurst.

A slight increase has taken place.

Agriculture.

The cultivation of ground nuts is rapidly extending—koos, rice, guinea corn, cassada, are grown during the rains for native consumption; cotton and indigo are also produced.

The fanatical religious war between Marabôuts and Soninkees, a war *à l'outrance*, renewed every year, is a great drawback and hindrance to trade and agriculture.

To save land carriage, the farmers come from the interior to the river board and cultivate the soil. This is the time chosen for raids on each other, and often our traders, who are there to purchase the ground nuts, are plundered.

GAMBIA.

Manufactures.

Native looms exist for weaving country cloths. There is a small steam factory for cleaning cotton, shelling ground nuts, and making oil. Soda water and lemonade are also made, but owing to the bad quality of the water, not very successfully.

The natives are very skilful as goldsmiths.

The natives chiefly live upon rice, koos, and fish; the fishermen go out daily in small canoes and supply the market.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The gaol is well ventilated, and contains three classes of buildings.—1st. Lower flat for the prisoners' cells, upper story for the debtors and quarters for the gaoler. 2nd. The female ward (separate), with one day-room and quarters for the matron. 3rd. An infirmary, with eight beds, the patients being placed in the upper story thereof.

Airing yards are attached to the two former buildings.

There is a shed for personal ablutions, and water is plentifully supplied by a well in the yard.

The Colonial Surgeon visits the gaol daily, the Administrator and one or more Justices weekly. The prisoners' rations consist of one pound of rice, half pound of beef made into soup, half pound of bread, salt, and they receive coffee and sugar before going to work in the morning. They are well clothed; in the dry weather they are supplied with a suit of white duck, in the rainy season with one suit of blue serge; red caps. A certain class prefer being in gaol, where they are better fed, clothed, and attended to than they are when at large. They commit crime on purpose to be sent to gaol. The only punishment they dislike or dread is the treadmill, of which they have only half an hour a day; but to avoid that some of them, whilst the wheel is going round, will hang by their hands from the top rail, not moving their legs and feet, which are frequently bruised, and then they are admitted to hospital for a few days.

Shot-drill is also of half an hour's duration daily; this they also dislike.

But generally speaking, taking into consideration the whole population, the inhabitants are well behaved and orderly; petty theft and larceny are the principal crimes. The daily average number of prisoners during the year is about 41.

Hospital.

There is a very good hospital. A large two-storied building, well kept, and ventilated: the lower story is distributed into kitchen, surgery, dispensary, and stores, a ward for third-class patients, and a ward for females (seldom used).

The upper story is divided into quarters for the dispenser, a first-class or captains' ward, and a second-class or European sailors' ward. There are two enclosed lavatories in the upper ward and one below provided with galvanized baths. There are surface drains to carry off the water in the rainy season. The latrines are kept in good

order, and emptied daily; they adjoin the hospital, which is surrounded by a wall enclosing a large airing ground. GAMBIA.

There is also a large and commodious bungalow for the reception of pauper patients. The hospital is frequently visited by the Administrator and the clergymen of the several denominations, and by the Colonial Surgeon twice a day (or oftener if required).

There is no lunatic asylum.

In concluding this report, your Excellency will no doubt bear in mind that I only administered the Government of the Settlement during the last five months of 1870.

I may mention that I paid a visit to the Upper River, proceeding 300 miles from Bathurst, and 100 beyond McCarthy's Island, in H.M.S. 'Growler,' under command of Captain Verney, in January, 1871, the coolest season of the year. I found all the native chiefs and kings friendly disposed towards the British. A brisk trade in ground nuts was going on, and promised a large crop for 1871.

I have carefully watched over the funds of the Colony, and lost no opportunity of reducing expenditure, and put in force the greatest economy wherever practicable, and I have no doubt at the end of 1871 a sensible increase will be perceptible in the balance in the Colonial Treasury chest.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY ANTON,
Acting Administrator.

Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.
No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Administrator SALMON to Governor Sir ARTHUR E. KENNEDY, C.B.

(No. 114.) Government House, Cape Coast,
SIR, October 19, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency my report on the Blue Book for the year 1870.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Acting Administrator.

Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

Taxes, Duties, and other sources of Revenue.

There have been no changes made under the head of Duties since the Convention with Holland. The introduction of the money-order system between Cape Coast and the United Kingdom will cause a small increase in Post-office revenue. No additional taxes have been imposed.

GOLD COAST.

Fees.

All fees receivable by officers have been abolished, except certain fees of Customs to be regulated by an Ordinance under consideration.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The increase of revenue this year has been very marked, due to the large importation of American spirits, which, next to cotton goods, is the principal article of barter, and better supervision in the Customs department. The expenditure on the whole was less than was estimated for.

Comparative Yearly Statements of Revenue and Expenditure.

The increase in "Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Court" is due to a certain extent to increased judicial business, but principally to fines paid by certain chiefs and towns. In "Fixed Salaries" and "Rent" the increase is due to augmentation of salaries and new offices created.

Military Expenditure.

The military expenditure of the Settlement has been decreased by about 17 per cent. under last year.

Public Works.

The Colonial Surveyor was appointed in July. The works in progress were continued, and Abyssinian wells sunk at Cape Coast. On account of the nature of the surface rock, the latter did not succeed so well as was anticipated, but have been of service to the natives. The thoroughfares of Cape Coast and the Accra towns were considerably improved during the year; also the market roads to Cape Coast.

Legislation.

Of the Ordinances passed in the year 1870, the only one calling for special remark is the Ordinance No. 3, which provides that the officers and men of Her Majesty's Land Forces serving on the Gold Coast shall receive a stipulated allowance in lieu of remission of Customs duties. The sum of sixpence a day for each officer, and sixpence a month for each non-commissioned officer and private, comes to rather more in the year than the amount of duties received from that quarter.

Civil Establishment.

Several additions to the civil establishment have taken place this year,—the appointment of Mr. Mercer as Colonial Surveyor, of Mr. E. R. Cole as Postmaster, Cape Coast, of Mr. J. T. Brownell as Inspector of Customs at out-stations. The principal changes were the appointment of Mr. C. S. Salmon as Collector of Customs, vice Mr. Simpson; and of Colonel Foster of Inspector of Police and Assistant Magistrate, vice H. Kneller, Esq.

Officers who have given Security for the Discharge of their Duties. GOLD COAST.

All officers in the Settlement holding positions of financial trust have given security for an estimated amount, according to the nature and responsibility of the office.

Recapitulation of the Establishments.

The amount, 35,609*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*, includes special payments (principally transfer of Colonial money from one chest or department to another), and remittances to Crown Agents, amounting to 16,857*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, the balance being the actual money paid away.

Population.

There are no means of obtaining any exact information with respect to the numbers of the people. The increase in cultivation as a means of obtaining the necessaries of life has been considerable, and would lead to the supposition that the population also is increasing. There have been no scarcities, epidemics, or other disturbing influence to hinder the natural augmentation.

Ecclesiastical Return.

Under this head there are no alterations to report.

Education.

There has been a small increase during the latter portion of the year in the attendance at the Government boys' school, Cape Coast.

Mrs. Moseley's Female Christian Institution ceased to be carried on after the unfortunate and untimely death of that lady.

There is a general desire, among the trading portion of the community, for a higher class of education for boys, in order to fit them for commercial pursuits and the Government service.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

There is a change to be noted respecting coins. American (U.S.) gold has nearly gone out of circulation, and American (U.S.) silver is rare, due to its withdrawal to the United States, American vessels receiving it in payment in preference.

The silver dollar of the United States still passes among the people for 4*s.* 6*d.*, but others at only 4*s.*; the five-dollar Spanish gold piece, of which a considerable number are in circulation, passes for 20*s.* 6*d.* only. Cowries are gone out of circulation in the Cape Coast district.

The people refuse defaced or worn silver, and dislike half-crowns.

There is no French coin in circulation, and very little Dutch, notwithstanding the proximity of the latter settlements.

Imports and Exports.

The imports show an increase of 40,000*l.* over last year, being about 20 per cent.; there is a decrease of nearly ½th, or 22,446*l.*

GOLD COAST. on the imports from the United Kingdom ; an increase of about 150 per cent., or 51,755*l.* in the imports from the United States, and the item of 10,467*l.* from Germany is also an increase, no imports from that country having figured in the last year's returns. There is no doubt that the imports last year were in excess of previous years ; but a portion of the increase figured forth is due to greater care and supervision in making the returns. The distribution of last year's returns of imports showing none from Germany is incorrect, as undoubtedly a large quantity of goods were shipped from Hamburg and North Germany to German houses in the Settlement.

The exports show an increase over last year of 96,326*l.*, or about 35 per cent. ; of this the United States takes 36,190*l.*, the Leeward and Windward Ports 26,177*l.* (for ultimate shipment, generally to Great Britain) ; Holland 20,758*l.*, Germany 3,899*l.*, and France, which did not figure in last year's returns, 21,008*l.* There is a diminution in the exports to the United Kingdom direct of 11,707*l.*

It is difficult to obtain an accurate return of the quantity of gold dust exported ; a great deal depends upon the good faith and willingness of the supercargoes of vessels, and they are afraid to let the Custom House clerks and the sub-collectors at the out-stations know more of their transactions than they can help, as those officers are not always to be depended upon for secrecy.

Shipping.

Under this head it is necessary to remark that there is a great apparent falling off in the number of vessels and their tonnage that entered and cleared from the Settlement ; this is due to the fact that the same vessel was reported more than once while passing up and down the coast.

Agriculture, Wages, &c.

There is a sensible increase in the amount of land under cultivation for farm and garden produce, and a large number of palm trees (for obtaining palm oil) have been planted in the Crobo country, adjacent to the river Volta.

The rate of wages has increased lately, although the means of living are more abundant. This is due to the greater desire of the natives for clothing, also to the natural results that follow any extension of trade and the opening up of fields for independent labour.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The rules for the prisons of the Settlement were printed in 1870. Shot-drill was introduced, and discipline more strictly enforced.

The number of prisoners committed for various crimes and offences show a large increase over last year. This is due to the return of a number of bad and lawless characters who were in the bush during the disturbances, fighting and panyarring. It is due also, to a certain extent, to the greater power of the law over districts removed beyond the immediate limits of the towns of Cape Coast and Accra.

Health.

GOLD COAST.

The health of the towns on the Coast for 1870 was apparently the average. There is a movement manifesting itself slightly at Cape Coast against the system of burying in the dwelling-house. This is due to an uneasy feeling among the better-informed natives that an epidemic, such as the cholera at the Gambia, might possibly fall upon them unprepared, and the natural consequences of the dwellings being over the numerous graves of the family for generations would declare themselves.

General Remarks.

The general prospect of the Settlement improved during the year. The nearer approach to permanent peace, and the fact of inhabitants settling down to their ordinary pursuits more steadily, gave a great impetus to trade. The flow of produce to the Coast was unimpeded by disturbing influences except in the Volta districts.

The balance in hand at the end of the year did not come up to the amount expected, due to unforeseen expenses connected with aborigines and the Volta expedition. The amount so expended, however, will be strictly remunerative by an increase of confidence and trade.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. S. SALMON,

Acting Administrator.

Sir Arthur E. Kennedy, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Administrator SALMON to
The ADMINISTRATOR IN CHIEF.

(No. 21.)

SIR, Government House, Cape Coast, February 9, 1872.

IN reply to a Despatch, No. 124, received from Sir Arthur Kennedy, I have the honour to forward the accompanying extra Report on the Blue Book for the year 1870.

2. I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to obtain the information required by the Secretary of State; I have, however, to remark to your Excellency that I am unable to enter into the details of the imports, because I have reason to believe the returns previous to 1870 were not made out in a manner that would make the figures reliable. There are no records in the offices to show how the figures had been arrived at. The imports for 1870 are recorded in the same manner as they are at Sierra Leone, for the western district; in the eastern districts the returns were only partially kept for that year, as the books were not obtained before six months of it had elapsed.

3. I trust that your Excellency will not deem that the unsatisfactory nature of my Report was due to carelessness. I, being a new man at the work, took previous Reports for sample, overlooking the fact that the unusual increase in American trade for that year, and the other matters referred to by Earl Kimberley, required to be specially accounted for.

GOLD COAST.

4. In making out the extra Report, I have discovered some errors in figures in page 137 of the Blue Book for 1870, where the total exports to the United Kingdom should be 200,378*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, instead of 191,763*l.* 12*s.*; and in page 131 of the Blue Book for 1869 the total exports to the United Kingdom should be 204,164*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, instead of 203,470*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* These errors will make the exports to the United Kingdom for the year 1870 to be 3,785*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* less than those of 1869, instead of 11,706*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, a difference of 7,921*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* The general figures in the Blue Books are correct as regards the quantity and value assigned to each separate article exported, the error was in the addition of these quantities by the clerk.

5. The Tables accompanying the Report are correct, as far as I have means of ascertaining.

The Administrator in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Acting Administrator.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1870.

Imports and Exports.

The year 1870 was an exceptional year for American trade, in consequence of which the regular course of exports was thrown out. One of the most extensive articles of barter imported into these Settlements is American rum, the import of which article in 1869 amounted to 207,176 gallons, and in 1870 to 664,219 gallons, of which latter quantity 398,531 gallons was landed in the western district, between and including Cape Coast and Winnebah, and 265,688 gallons in the eastern districts, between and including Accra and Addah. The difference in favour of the year 1870 is 454,043 gallons which at 3*s.* a gallon, the average selling price, gives 68,106*l.* 9*s.* as the amount which would have to be returned in produce or specie to the American. Another cause of the increase in the total of exports to the United States in 1870 over 1869, was the extra value of palm oil, consequent upon the competition for it; this increase, computed at 3*d.* a gallon for the quantity of palm oil exported in 1869, gives 5,929*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, which, had the price in 1869 been the same as in 1870, would have increased the value of the exports of the former year by that amount.

I have made inquiries of the American traders here, and I have ascertained that much gold dust is not exported to the United States. Previous to 1870 they obtained little or none, but in that year, owing to the large quantity of rum landed, the purchasers not having sufficient palm oil or other produce on hand to pay for it in the usual manner, gave gold dust instead, which article is generally reserved for the purchase of English goods. The Americans, however,

ultimately purchased palm oil for the greater portion of this gold dust, thereby lessening the amount of direct exports to the United States by the value of the quantity so purchased; I consider that 12,000*l.* would be a fair estimate to put down under this head. It is always difficult to trace dealings with gold dust, especially at the outports, for it passes in this Settlement in precisely the same way as coin does in England. The Americans, in making purchases of palm oil with the gold dust, would deal with the latter as coin, and it would not be recorded among the imports. They have frequently been requested by circulars to give returns of all gold dust received by them, which returns were embodied in the exports.

The Americans that trade upon this coast, even those whose cargoes are consigned to houses at Cape Coast, do not confine their transactions to the British settlements, but frequent the coast between the Kroo Coast and Whydah, sometimes, in passing up and down, calling at the same ports two or three times; they not unfrequently transship oil and other produce into the steamers for Liverpool, to be sold there, because the value of their outward cargo often exceeds the capacity of the vessel to receive the like value in produce. Under these conditions the ultimate final shipment to the United States by the vessel herself is almost impossible to arrive at.

As a consequence of the overtrading of the American Houses in 1870, the shippers lost money, and for a considerable time during the year 1871 no shipments arrived from that quarter. The houses did not recommence trade until they arrived at some mutual understanding.

The quantity of American rum imported into these Settlements for the past year was about 200,000 gallons less than in 1870, the total value of the imports for the two years being nearly the same. The quantity of palm oil exported to the United States for the past year was 226,243 gallons less than for the year 1870, although the total quantity of that article exported from these Settlements was in excess for the same period by 137,696 gallons.

Respecting the returns showing the trade of these Settlements with Holland, France and Germany, I cannot but consider there was some error in those of 1869, which caused a misplacement of figures, assigning to other countries the goods imported from and the produce exported to the above countries.

In the Blue Book for 1869 the imports from Holland are placed at 151*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, and the exports at 251*l.* 13*s.*, which may have been correct, but the French and German houses at Accra and Addah imported no goods from their respective countries, although six vessels of the former country and four vessels of the latter country entered, and seven vessels of the former and four of the latter cleared with cargoes.

If the returns for 1869 are reliable, Germany took 25,006*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* of produce, and the French houses exported none to France, therefore, although six French vessels entered and seven cleared, no goods were landed from or produce exported to France. The exports to Germany for 1870 (amounting to 28,905*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*) exceeded the total for the previous year (amounting to 25,006*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*) by 3,898*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; the imports for 1870 amounted to 10,467*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*,

GOLD COAST. — none having figured the previous year. The exports to France during the year 1870 amounted to 21,008*l.* 18*s.*, and the imports were nil. For the year 1869 there were neither imports from nor exports to France. In the year 1870 two German vessels and one French vessel entered and cleared, but some of the English vessels, I believe, loaded in German ports, and some of the Dutch vessels in French ports.

The imports from Holland for 1870 (amounting to 282*l.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 151*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*) by 110*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* The exports to Holland for 1870 (amounting to 21,009*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 251*l.* 13*s.*) by 20,758*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* The reason why the exports to Holland for the year 1870 exceed the imports so much is due to the fact that the produce (principally palm oil) was purchased with gold dust, instead of being obtained in barter; the neighbouring Dutch settlements having less palm oil and similar produce in proportion to gold dust, compared with the English settlements. The Americans houses overtraded in the Dutch settlements during the year 1870, the same as in these Settlements.

The exports to Windward for 1870 (amounting to 10,241*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 3,002*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*) by 7,238*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and the exports to the Leeward coast for the year 1870 (amounting to 19,515*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*) exceed those of 1869 (amounting to 577*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*) by 18,937*l.* 18*s.* These exports are nearly all in merchandise; the quantity and value of the produce exported to the Windward and Leeward coasts being inappreciable. The increase in the exports to these places for the year 1870 was entirely due to an extended trade. I have the honour to enclose to your Excellency two Tables of returns for the years 1869 and 1870 of exports to the United Kingdom and to the United States.

The difference in the Table (corrected) between the exports to the United Kingdom for the years 1869 and 1870 is not sufficient in itself to call for special comment, but the reason why none of the increase of trade in 1870 over 1869 accrued to England will be explained by the Report.

In the return of exports to the United States the amounts of 5,929*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, 12,000*l.*, and 68,106*l.* 9*s.*, will be fully explained by the Report, which gives the reasons for these figures, and which also shows the causes of the increase in business with the United States and these Settlements during the year 1870.

The imports for the year 1871 will show an increase over those of 1870, from Holland of 3,644*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and from France of 813*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, and there will be a decrease in the return of the imports from Germany of 6,711*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

The return of exports for 1871 will show a decrease with respect to those of 1870 of 15,468*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* for Holland, of 3,536*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* for France, and of 22,159*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* for Germany.

The war between France and Germany influenced the transactions with the northern parts of Europe and these Settlements, and the French houses mostly confined themselves to realizing and shipping. The returns for 1871 with respect to France, Holland, and Germany, taking into account the causes before mentioned, will serve to prove

that the returns for 1869 were probably incorrect in the manner before referred to, and that, therefore, the increase of trade with those countries in 1870 was, to a considerable extent, apparent only.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. S. SALMON,
Acting Administrator.

GOLD COAST.

EXPORTS TO UNITED KINGDOM.

	1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cotton goods - - - -	199	15	4	1,550	0	0
Raw cotton - - - -	135	19	6	335	0	0
Empty bottles - - - -	5	6	0	—		
Cola nuts - - - -	25	0	0	—		
Cordage - - - -	1	12	0	—		
Geneva - - - -	180	15	0	—		
Guinea grains - - - -	142	8	8	1,514	12	6
Gold dust - - - -	132,447	12	0	115,857	0	0
Gum - - - -	634	16	0	2,171	16	6
G. nuts - - - -	44	2	6	15	12	0
Books and stationery - - -	—			2	10	0
Hides - - - -	—			11	11	4
Hardware - - - -	—			45	0	0
Ivory - - - -	74	4	1	129	6	0
Jewelry - - - -	2	12	0	—		
Leather - - - -	42	10	6	20	0	0
Medicine - - - -	1	10	0	—		
P. kernels - - - -	18,816	5	0	7,700	0	0
P. oil - - - -	48,077	0	0	69,025	4	3
P. quills - - - -	461	13	0	130	7	0
Shea butter - - - -	13	0	0	—		
Pepper - - - -	—			28	3	0
Skins - - - -	—			1,842	14	0
Specie - - - -	2,857	12	0	—		
Provisions - - - -	0	13	6	—		
	£204,164	7	1	£200,378	16	7

EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES.

	1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Camwood - - - -	66	0	0	—		
Cordage - - - -	6	0	0	—		
Guinea grains - - - -	0	14	2	1,393	12	0
Gum copal - - - -	7	4	0	278	0	0
Ivory - - - -	15	12	0	—		
Palm kernels - - - -	640	15	0	4,326	0	0
P. oil - - - -	47,433	0	0	112,979	1	7
Specimens N. history - - -	799	18	5	—		

GOLD COAST.

	1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gold dust and specie - - -	—	—	—	15,919	4	0
Skins - - - - -	—	—	—	310	2	0
Glassware - - - - -	—	—	—	6	0	0
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	48,969	3	7	£135,211	19	7
3d. per gallon on 474,330 gallons of P. oil, being the extra value of that article in 1870 over 1869	5,929	2	6			
Estimated amount of G. dust out of the 15,919l. 4s. exported from certain ports in 1870 that was paid away for P. oil at other places in the Settlement - -	12,000	0	0			
Value of 454,043 gallons of rum at 3s. a gallon, being the quan- tity imported into the Settle- ment in 1870 over 1869 - -	68,106	9	0			
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£135,004	15	1			

LAGOS.LAGOS.

No. 9.

No. 9.

(Not received.)

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. BARKLY, K.C.B., to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 68.)

MY LORD, Government House, Cape Town, June 23, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book of the
Cape of Good Hope for 1870.

As I only arrived at Cape Town on the last day of that year, the
Report on the state and prospects of the Colony, with which I am
required by the regulations to accompany it, must, in many respects,
be meagre and incomplete, but I will make such comments as occur
to me under the principal heads specified.

2. I begin with the returns relating to finance and commerce,
taking afterwards those connected with the moral and political condi-
tion of the inhabitants.

3. Though more prosperous than any in the previous decade, the
year would seem not to have opened more auspiciously than those

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which preceded, since the estimates of revenue and expenditure laid before the Legislature in January showed a probable deficit of no less than 61,344*l*.

4. With a view to reducing this amount, a house tax, calculated to bring in 22,000*l*., was imposed. No addition was made to the import duties, Ordinance 20 of 1870, noted at the commencement of the tariff, being merely explanatory in respect to the previous rates on certain articles.

5. Fortunately, as the year wore on, good seasons, combined with the impetus given to trade by the success of a large body of diamond seekers, beyond the northern boundary of the Colony, produced such beneficial effects that the revenue proved more than a hundred thousand pounds above what had been anticipated; and, notwithstanding some excess over the estimated expenditure, the expected deficit was thus converted into a surplus of 35,518*l*.

6. The extent of the improvement will be best gathered from the subjoined comparison with the two preceding years:—

	1868.	1869.	1870.
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Revenue -	577,322	580,026	661,392
Expenditure -	668,086	648,732	625,874
	<u>90,764 deficit.</u>	<u>68,706 deficit.</u>	<u>35,518 surplus.</u>

Thus the revenue of 1870 exceeded that of 1868 by 84,070*l*., whilst the expenditure was 42,212*l*. less than in that year. How greatly the conversion into a surplus was due to the economy practised is shown by the fact, that even the increased revenue of 1870 would not have sufficed to meet the expenditure of 1868.

7. The figures set down for 1870 are those furnished by the audit for my speech on opening Parliament, and do not precisely tally with those deducible from the Blue Book, which would give a somewhat larger surplus of revenue. It is not easy, indeed, to draw correct conclusions from returns in which money borrowed appears under the head of revenue, whilst loans repaid figure as expenditure, both sides of the account being thereby disproportionately swollen, but by a detailed analysis the results of last year would be shown to stand really more favourably still, for the Sinking Fund investment for 1867, 11,500*l*., was paid to the Commissioners in 1870, as well as that for the year itself, thus augmenting the disbursements of the latter by 23,000*l*., no part of which can strictly be classed as expenditure, since it went in reduction of the public debt.

8. As this sinking fund of 1 per cent., established under Act No. 9 of 1864, has, during the six years of its existence, accumulated to 66,780*l*. (including 21,250*l*., Colonial Debentures paid off in the Colony, but not yet cancelled), mention of it ought certainly to have been made in the statement as to the public debt.

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9. On the other hand, the statement is more favourable than it should be, inasmuch as no allusion is made in it to so-called "temporary loans," to which, during the financial difficulties of the Colony, recourse has been had to a large extent, no less than 145,000*l*. still

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remaining due to the Guardian Fund managed by the master of the Supreme Court, and 65,000*l.* to the Cape of Good Hope Bank, though, as will be seen from the statement of expenditure, 43,000*l.* was paid off under this head during 1870. 10,000*l.* has likewise subsequently been repaid.

10. The first of these repayments will serve to explain an anomaly presented by the Blue Book returns, which would otherwise be irreconcilable with the occurrence of a surplus revenue, namely, that the general account current shows the balances in the treasury, divisional chests, &c., on 31st December to have been 11,500*l.* less than on the previous 1st January, notwithstanding an actual increase of 24,750*l.* appears in the statement of public debt through the issue of 19,750*l.* more debentures on account of the Table Bay breakwater, and a small excess of 4,800*l.* arising from the conversion into irredeemable stock of 50,000*l.*, which had been raised in 1867 for a short term of years.

11. The actual indebtedness of the Cape Colony with these corrections would be raised from 1,569,907*l.*, as set forth in the statement, to 1,734,378*l.*, irrespective of a guarantee for 43 years of 6 per cent. on 500,000*l.* to the Cape Town and Wellington Railway Company. As the total amount is considerably under four times the average annual income of the Colony, it can hardly be considered excessive compared with the debt of other countries, especially as it has, in several instances, been incurred for works of a highly reproductive character, calculated to enhance the value of the many million acres of Crown land still unsold.

12. With reviving prosperity, indeed, a desire to proceed further with such works as railways by means of borrowed capital has sprung up, and it seems to me that gradually, and with due precautions, at least 1,500,000*l.* may be thus expended in opening up the country between the seaboard and the interior, with much advantage to all concerned.

13. It is, of course, of the utmost importance, when looking in this light at the financial position and prospects of the Colony, to decide how far the recent improvement in these respects is attributable to mere transient causes, and how far it is likely to prove permanent. This improvement has occurred mainly in the Customs and the land revenue; that on the former amounting to 46,331*l.*, or considerably more than half of the entire augmentation.

14. That the augmented importations, which thus swelled the receipts of import duties, are dependent in a great degree upon the continuance of tolerably favourable seasons must be evident, but it is equally clear, in my opinion, that the discovery of diamonds in the territories beyond the Orange River, and consequent influx of population, will give rise for many years to come to increasing demands for dutiable articles, as well as for colonial products, in this latter respect indirectly stimulating consumption within the Colony itself. Nor will this increasing demand be materially affected by the ultimate settlement of questions as to sovereignty or ownership of soil, the Diamond-fields being so situated that, like the adjacent republics, they must inevitably draw their chief supplies of merchandise from this Colony, although Natal will doubtless continue to participate in

respect to lighter and less bulky goods transportable across the lofty ranges of the Drakensberg.

15. The returns of imports and exports show, as will be perceived from the figures given below, viz. :—

	1869.	1870.
	£	£
Value of imports - - -	1,953,091	2,352,043
„ exports - - -	2,139,689	2,569,499
Excess of exports - - -	<u>£186,589</u>	<u>£217,456</u>

not merely an increase of about 20 per cent. in both, but an almost commensurate advance in the excess of the value of the latter over that of the former; and, though I am aware that such excess is no longer regarded as an infallible criterion of the flourishing state of any country, it proves, at least, that the augmented importations of last year were by no means speculative, consequent on the excitement as to diamond discoveries, but represented the legitimate operations of trade.

16. Whether they exceeded the real requirements of the Diamond-fields is another question: if, as stated in the Table of Exports, the value of all the diamonds exported in 1870 only equalled 153,460*l.*, there can be little doubt that they did so; but it must be borne in mind that this statement includes such precious stones alone as were regularly entered outwards as cargo, hundreds sent by post or carried on their persons by passengers not being declared at the Custom House at all, whilst, even as regards those shipped by the banks and mercantile firms, the values assigned were mere matter of form, no duty being leviable except a small ad valorem wharfage rate at Port Elizabeth, which probably corrected any tendency to over valuation there. It is alleged indeed that, in the early days of the discovery, diamonds were far too highly priced in the Colony, insufficient deduction being made for the enormous depreciation resulting from defects of colour or brilliancy; but, whatever effect this may have had, it assuredly cannot have made up for the innumerable omissions in the Blue Book Table. I am disposed to think, from statements I have seen in English newspapers, that the precious stones exported from the Cape in 1870 fell little short in value of a quarter of a million, and, as this exportation scarcely commenced until the middle of the year, whilst the population of the fields, as well as the area of diamond-producing country opened up, has been increasing ever since, it seems not too high an estimate to assume that this year the value of the exports under this head will be fully double.

17. The effect of this for the time being upon the trade and revenue of the Colony is most satisfactory, and I am sanguine that it will prove to be little less so upon its permanent prosperity, as a large proportion of the more fortunate diggers have but migrated temporarily over the border, either with the intention of returning to their farms and stores annually when the summer heat becomes unendurable on the fields, or, if they have the luck to find a valuable gem, hastening home with the proceeds to invest them in the purchase of fresh

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acres of land or new bales of merchandise. Of course this is not so sure to be the case with European emigrants, who sometimes, if they succeed, go back in the ship that brought them out; but, as happened at the Australian Gold-fields, gentlemen adventurers are rarely successful, the work as a rule being too hard, whilst those of lower rank are just as likely to settle in the Colony as not. The average earnings, too, of the diggers are so small, and possibly will undergo such further reduction as their number increases, that it may be doubted whether emigration on a very large scale is likely to continue. Calculating the present number at 1,500 only, which is much below the usual estimates, half a million's worth of diamonds would give only 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per head per annum.

18. With regard to other articles exported, no very material changes occurred, though the returns indicate satisfactory progress in most respects. The quantity of wool shipped (which includes, it must be borne in mind, the clip of nearly the whole of the Free State also) was about the same as before, viz. 36,000,000 lbs., worth, even at the reduced prices which prevailed on account of the war in Europe, 1,660,000*l.* The exports of wine underwent a further reduction, having now dwindled down to about 1,000 gallons, owing partly to the adverse effect of its classification under the Imperial tariff, but more probably to the inducement which the Diamond-fields held out to distil the juice of the grape into brandy. The number of tons of copper ore rose from 5,390 to 7,300, valued at 146,360*l.*, giving it a very important place in the Table. Gold does not yet figure among the products of the Colony, but I entertain little doubt that it will ere long do so, as the auriferous rocks are developed throughout extensive areas in the Western Province. More valuable, however, in all probability, than the precious metal are two novel but rising exports—angora hair, of which 403,153 lbs., worth 26,673*l.*, were shipped, and cotton, of which only 791 lbs. had been sent home experimentally in 1869, but which in 1870, stands at 48,965 lbs., worth 1,095*l.* But for extraneous circumstances the quantity would have been considerably larger, and this year it will exceed 200 bales. Cotton farming, indeed, may now be considered an established fact, and as there is a vast tract of country at the mouth of the Great Fish River and all along the Kaffraian coast admirably adapted to its cultivation, it may be hoped that this will rapidly be extended.

19. The returns of shipping for 1870 are of especial interest, as it was the first year in which the Suez Canal presented a new route for navigation between Europe and the East. Its effects, as might be expected, are clearly traceable. For ten years before the extent of tonnage entered inwards had varied little, but during the last it declined from a gross total (including vessels coastwise) of 375,767 tons to one of 335,569, showing thus a falling off of 40,000 tons, or somewhat more than 10 per cent. The falling off would probably have been larger but for the briskness of importations for the Diamond-fields, which it may be hoped will continue to have a mitigating influence. On the other hand, it can hardly be supposed that the traffic by canal is yet fairly developed. It is improbable, however, that the Colony will suffer much loss from a few steamers or sailing ships from India or China ceasing to call in Table Bay.

The real shock took place long since, when the overland route was first opened, and Indian officers left off spending their furloughs at Cape Town.

20. The true prosperity of the Colony is dependent on other causes, and notably on the progress of agriculture, if it be allowable to use the word in the wider signification, which a soil and climate so peculiar as those of South Africa demand; for, so far at least as the Western Province is concerned, the agricultural districts may be said to lie within a radius of little more than a hundred miles from Cape Town, and even there, though the valleys are fertile, the country is for the most part hilly and covered with scrub, whilst beyond that distance, up to the Orange River, stretch an endless succession of sheep-walks, treeless and barren looking, yet affording excellent pasturage. This part of the Colony is too badly watered, though much may be done to improve the supply by dams and Abyssinian pumps, ever to be very densely peopled; but it is nevertheless interspersed, at the distance of every forty or fifty miles, where rivers exist, or copious and permanent springs are found, with flourishing townships containing from 500 to 1,000 inhabitants, forming commercial centres for the outlying farmers of the district. In the east the country is better wooded, though often extremely mountainous, and the deltas of various fine rivers furnish a large area of cultivable land. Upon the whole, however, the comparative resources of the two provinces are very evenly balanced.

21. Over both the population is still, as a general rule, thinly scattered, and composed of such mixed elements as to oppose even a greater obstacle to social progress. No attempt is made in the Blue Book to carry up to date the census returns of 1865, save that those for British Kaffraria, then a separate colony, have been included. The aggregate population must have, in the interim, considerably increased; but there seems no reason to believe that the proportions of the different races have much varied. At that date persons of European descent constituted a little under 45 per cent. of the whole in the west, but less than 25 per cent. in the eastern districts, the remainder in both provinces being Kaffirs, Hottentots, and other coloured persons.

22. These proportions give but a feeble idea of the real preponderance in numbers of the natives, who swarm on the other side of the colonial boundaries to such an extent that the 187,439 men, women, and children, of which the white population in the two provinces consists, form an inconsiderable fraction in comparison. As the Kaffirs in the Eastern Province belong to the same tribes and recognize more or less the same chiefs as those beyond the frontier, it is not surprising that much alarm was last year created when the long threatened withdrawal of Her Majesty's troops was all but accomplished. Fortunately, notwithstanding for six months the garrison of the whole province was but the wing of a regiment, everything remained perfectly quiet, and as this small number of troops has been doubled since the commencement of the present year, the same degree of apprehension no longer exists. Indeed the actual state of the native question is generally admitted to be most satisfactory, with the single exception of the increase within the Colony

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itself of stock stealing or slaughtering cattle, sheep, and goats for the purpose of selling the skins. It is very desirable to devise a remedy for this practice, as it is the sole point which now creates ill-feeling between the white and black races, and I trust that this Session of Parliament will not close without legislation with this object.

23. Crime in other respects is by no means rife nor on the increase, as may be inferred from the returns as to gaols and prisoners, which show that the greatest number in confinement on any one day in the several prisons was only 1,729, whereas in 1869 it had been 2,119, a diminution due probably to the abundant harvest. The information furnished, however, under this head, though most elaborate, is, I find on closer examination, very incomplete, the convict establishments not being included, to which all long-sentenced prisoners are removed with a view to their employment on public works. Next year I trust to rectify this and other omissions, and, with the aid of the new Blue Book forms, to put Her Majesty's Government in possession of full particulars. On this occasion I will only observe that those convict establishments which I have visited, viz. those in connection with the construction of the Table Bay breakwater, and the harbour works at Port Alfred, are all that could be wished; and that some of the gaols, especially in the larger towns, are buildings of an expensive class, though not very well contrived. In two or three instances during my tour I came across gaols that were disgracefully bad, but this was either at recently-established townships or at places where the new buildings had not been commenced at the date when, after a special loan of 200,000*l.* had been spent on country gaols, the Assembly refused to authorize any further expenditure for the purpose. I intend asking for votes in the supplementary estimates of this year to commence the erection of proper gaols in the cases above alluded to.

24. The returns as to hospitals are very full, and in the form required by Earl Granville's Circular Despatch of the 12th July, 1869. With regard to such of the institutions as are situated in the vicinity of Cape Town, I have already made a special report to your Lordship, to which I have little to add. The New Somerset Hospital, as it is called, is a magnificent edifice externally, erected at needlessly heavy cost, but ill adapted internally for the accommodation of any large number of patients. The Old Somerset Hospital, now used rather as an almshouse, is by no means what it ought to be, and I trust that the Legislature will soon decide on completing the asylums for paupers, lunatics, and lepers, on Robben Island, or on the construction of others elsewhere, so as to admit of the antiquated premises in question being vacated, and the site sold for commercial purposes. There are some fine hospitals in the Eastern Province, such as Sir George Grey's Kaffir Hospital at King William's Town, the Public Hospital at Graham's Town, and the Grey Institution at Port Elizabeth.

25. An excellent system of public education was many years ago established at the Cape, and it has been worked under the supervision of able and conscientious superintendents, yet it scarcely seems to have accomplished as much as might have been anticipated, owing no doubt to the want of sufficient pecuniary support. At first sight the statistics given in Dr. Dale's Report for 1870 seem satisfactory,

it being stated that so many as 40,412 children of all classes received instruction in some one of the 438 educational institutions during the year; but this includes all on the rolls, and when the nature of the instruction given is inquired into, it will be found that only 6,630 were educated in schools directly under Government control, the great bulk of them, 29,380, attending denominational schools, and 4,402 those of the Kaffir Missions. In fact, the anomaly is dwelt on by Dr. Dale that, while the children of the coloured and poorer classes in the towns and villages are thus on the whole well cared for, those of well-to-do farmers, especially when scattered in outlying districts, are growing up in the densest ignorance. This is no doubt due in part to the little value set upon education by the parents, and their consequent apathy in regard to supporting schools; but it shows, as Dr. Dale remarks, that an "aggressive element" must be infused into the educational system of the Colony if lamentable results are to be averted. The appointment of one or more Inspectors of Schools would no doubt be a great addition to the machinery at present in operation, for it is simply impossible for the most active superintendent living to visit every district, even triennially.

26. I will not extend this already lengthened Despatch by any special reference to the very copious ecclesiastical returns which are given in the Blue Book. They would certainly seem to show that the grant of 16,760*l.* per annum, distributed among the various churches under Schedule C., is turned to good account, and it may be feared that its withdrawal, which is advocated by a large party in the Assembly, will considerably curtail the means of imparting religious knowledge to large classes of the population. In the towns the voluntary system may no doubt be successfully carried out; but even there the funds now contributed by congregations for the support of missions throughout the country, will probably be absorbed in providing for their own wants.

27. The extracts from the Annual Reports of the Civil Commissioners with which, as usual, the Cape Blue Book concludes, will be found to give a very satisfactory account of the present condition of the various districts, and to display a general confidence that the difficulties and misfortunes of late years have at length been successfully surmounted. It would be idle, of course, to attempt to predict the future destinies of the Colony, but nothing assuredly can be more apparently promising than its prospects at this moment.

With unbounded stores of mineral wealth, and with a range of climate which fits it for the growth of most of the agricultural productions of the tropical as well as temperate zones, the natural resources of South Africa can hardly be surpassed by those of any other portion of the globe. It is subject, no doubt, to severe periodical droughts, but even in this respect its disadvantages have been exaggerated, for the difference of seasons between the north-eastern and south-western districts is so great—the rains in the one falling in summer, in the other in winter—that there is little likelihood of the whole country suffering at the same time.

Another of its drawbacks is the want of population, or rather of skilled labour of the right description, for native labour is comparatively abundant and cheap. The low rate of wages indeed constitutes

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the main obstacle to European immigration, especially in the Eastern Province; but there is ample room for small capitalists and farmers, by whom the cultivation of cotton and other articles could be spread if proper inducements were held out.

In regard to this and many other questions of importance, I am disposed to think that the peculiar political institutions which prevail, and above all the jealousies thereby promoted among the representatives of rival constituencies in the east and west, have had much to do with retarding the development of the Colony, and I look forward to its making rapid and substantial progress so soon as the reforms now under consideration of the Legislature are carried out, and a responsible central administration, with powers of local self government in the remoter districts, organized.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,
Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.—No. 34, 1871.

Colonial Office, Cape of Good Hope,
February 1, 1871.

His Excellency the Governor has directed the publication, for general information, of the accompanying Account Current, of the Commissioners for administering the Sinking Fund of this Colony, under Act No. 9 of 1864, for the year ending 31st December, 1870, together with a Supplementary Statement, showing the entire working of the fund from the 1st January, 1865, to the 31st December, 1870.

By command of his Excellency the Governor,
R. SOUTHEY, Colonial Secretary.

ACCOUNT CURRENT of the COMMISSIONERS for ADMINISTERING the SINKING FUND of the CAPE of GOOD HOPE, under ACT No. 9 of 1864, for the Year ending 31st DECEMBER, 1870, and STATE of the FUND on that day.

State of the Fund on the 1st January, 1870.

Amount invested to 31st December, 1869	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
				55,532	10	5
Deduct:—						
Capital repaid in 1868 and 1869				578	0	0
Interest advanced on purchase of securities in 1868 and 1869	1,590	19	2			
				2,168	19	2
Capital remaining invested on 1st January, 1870				£53,363	10	3

Receipts during 1870.

January 1:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash balance from last						
Account	84	17	5			
Less error in entry 24th						
October, 1868	0	0	1			
				84	17	4
December 31:—						
One year's interest on debentures	1,275	0	0			
Interest on Crown Land Bonds	1,521	15	3			
Capital repaid on ditto	1,796	13	2			
Contribution from Colonial Revenue				11,016	10	0
Interest on deposits in savings bank				6	12	0
				£15,701	7	10

Payments during 1870.

December 31:—	£	s.	d.
Invested in Crown Land Bonds (capital)	10,772	10	11
Amounts advanced for accrued interest to 12th May, 1870	233	7	2
Invested in Crown Land Bonds (capital)	1,215	13	1
Amount advanced for accrued interest to 31st December, 1870	56	4	6
Balance awaiting investment	3,423	12	1
	£15,701	7	10

*State of the Fund on the 31st December, 1870.*CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Securities on Government Debentures - - - - -	21,250	0	0			
Securities on Crown Land Bonds - - - - -	42,105	10	2			
				63,355	10	2
Cash deposited in Treasury - - - - -	3,289	15	9			
Cash deposited in savings bank - - - - -	154	12	5			
Cash on hand - - - - -	9	3	11			
				3,423	12	1
Total amount of the fund - - - - -				286,779	2	3

(Signed)

J. C. DAVIDSON, Chairman.
JOHN CURREY.
GEO. J. NICHOLLS.
JOHN T. EUSTACE.

Cape Town, 28th January, 1871.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT, showing the entire working of the SINKING FUND from the Year 1865 to the 31st DECEMBER, 1870.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
December 31, 1870:—				December 31, 1871:—			
Total amount of Government contributions to date - - - - -	58,599	0	0	Total amount of Government Debentures to date - - - - -	21,250	0	0
Total of interest received on Government Debentures and Crown Land Bonds to date - 10,811 14 0				Total Crown Land Bonds - - - - -	44,480	3	4
Less interest accrued on Government Debentures and Crown Land Bonds taken over from Government - 2,631 11 9				Less Crown Land Bonds repaid - 2,374 13 2			
					42,105	10	2
				Cash in hand this date - - - - -	3,423	12	1
	8,180	2	3				
	286,779	2	3				
					286,779	2	3

(Signed)

J. C. DAVIDSON, Chairman } Commissioners for
JOHN CURREY } Administering the
GEO. J. NICHOLLS } Sinking Fund.
JOHN T. EUSTACE }

28th January, 1871.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor KEATE to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 41.)

MY LORD, Government House, Natal, March 8, 1872.

I am at length enabled to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for this Colony for the year 1870. The causes of the very serious delay in its completion were explained in a Despatch I addressed to your Lordship in May last, and I may add that the difficulties to be contended with, both as regards the paucity of hands in the Colonial Secretary's Department, owing to the action of the Legislative Council, and the public printing, consequent upon the general movement towards the Diamond-fields, have very materially increased since that date. In order that no further delay may take place in its transmission, I am obliged to confine myself to a very cursory review of its contents.

NATAL.

2. In reviewing the transactions of 1869, I reported that for the first time for several years the revenue of that year had been more than equal to the expenditure. In 1870 the revenue exceeded the expenditure by 9,283*l*. There was no difference in the sources from which the income of these two years was derived, nor were there in 1870 any exceptional demands on the revenue to be met. The income of 1870 surpassed that of 1869 by 11,482*l*.

3. The expenditure of 1870, if compared with that of 1869, deducting arrears paid in 1869 for 1868, would show a slight increase. This is nothing more than a partial return to a standard of expenditure for general purposes which in the years of deficient revenue had been departed from, and the ordinary unavoidable expansion of outlay in a country which is in a progressive state.

4. That the Colony is in a progressive state, the subjoined return of its shipping and trade during the five years ending on the 31st December, 1870, with a subsidiary statement referring to the first six months of 1871, will serve to show.

ACCOUNT of SHIPPING and TRADE, INWARDS and OUTWARDS, from 1866 to 1870 inclusive, and for the first Six Months of 1871.

Year.	Shipping Inwards. Annual Tonnage.	Value of Imports.	Customs' Revenue.	Shipping Outwards. Tonnage.	Value of Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£
1866 - - - -	26,142	263,305	23,505	25,627	203,402
1867 - - - -	26,625	269,580	35,801	26,288	225,671
1868 - - - -	26,872	317,432	30,475	24,507	271,949
1869 - - - -	26,022	380,331	39,702	25,041	363,262
1870 - - - -	28,881	429,527	45,571	24,005	382,979
First six months of 1871 - - - -	12,892	237,568	24,252	13,730	284,282

5. But it has become a question of considerable interest, and one in the reply to which the Colony is very deeply concerned, what is to be the effect upon its fortunes, for good or for evil, of the discovery of the Diamond-fields on the Vaal River? This discovery has drawn a numerous population to a tract of country which in itself offers no inducement either of soil or climate to settlers. The migration from the Cape Provinces, from Natal, and from the Orange Free State and Transvaal territories, has been followed by one which seems likely to be of larger dimensions from England, Australia, and elsewhere. It was at first feared that, as in the case of the over-vaunted discoveries of gold in 1869, there would be a rapid reflux of the stream of immigration, but as yet no signs have been exhibited of the success obtained being on the wane. The area of search is extending, the quantity of the gems found is ever on the increase, and their quality, if anything, is improving. It is difficult to state the value of the diamonds exported through the Colony, so many having been carried away undeclared by passengers by the homeward steamers. The records of the Durban Custom House only give 9,615*l* as the total value of the gems exported in 1870, but for the first ten months of 1871 the return stands at 32,056*l*.

6. That a very great impulse has thus been given to the trade of

South Africa, taken as a whole, there can be no doubt. For the present it would seem to have manifested itself most extensively in the eastern provinces of the Cape Colony, which have a long-established business connection with the Orange Free State, and where there are in some respects great facilities of transport. But in Natal also the year 1870 was marked by a decided increase in the quantity and value of its imports, and in the amount of revenue derived from the Customs duties. In the year 1871 just closed the impetus was more, but not much more than maintained, while the diminution of its white population from the movement towards the Vaal River, which the Colony has already experienced, proportionately great, though in itself, as compared with the exodus from the Cape Colony, numerically inconsiderable, is more severely felt than is probably the case in the sister Colony.

7. There are not wanting, however, at this time signs of renewed vitality in the trade which has been fostered by these discoveries. The demand for carriage and transport is now causing a very heavy drain upon the resources of the Colony, and the Customs' returns for the first two months of the present year have exceeded those of a like period in any previous year. There are many who think that the relative advantages of the two routes by Port Elizabeth and Natal are to be measured by the rates of Customs duties levied in each. So long as by either line the removal of goods from the sea port to the interior is dependent for carriage upon the ox waggon, the superior pastoral character of Natal will render it unnecessary, as well as impolitic, that she should embark in a war of tariffs. This natural superiority will give her a fair share in the profits to be obtained from this new field of enterprise. It would be as unwise as it would be fruitless, to aim at a monopoly, or a superabundance of benefit, by means of fiscal legislation.

8. The opening up of the interior of the continent by enterprises devoted to the extraction of its mineral wealth will no doubt, for a time, divert the stream of immigration, never a very copious one, from the cultivatable lands of the two colonies to the bare river banks along which the new population is extending itself; but this is a population requiring to be fed from other sources, and it offers therefore a fresh and a continually widening market, not only to the trader in imported goods, but to the local producer of consumable commodities. The coast produce of Natal is finding its way up to the Vaal in increasing quantities, and if the up-country farmers are leaving their homesteads to try their fortunes at "the Fields," not only will many of them return to their more congenial and, as they will probably find by their experience, equally remunerative labours, but a portion of the overflow of the immigrant population will, it may be hoped and expected, follow in their wake, and be induced, by the many advantages of soil and climate, to become permanent residents in Natal.

9. In the meantime the more legitimate business, as I may call it, of the Colony, has not slackened. The following is a statement of the annual export by sea of sugar during a series of ten years, arranged according to the crop season, that is to say, ending on the 30th June in each year;—

NATAL.

A STATEMENT of the ANNUAL EXPORT of SUGAR, based on the CROP SEASON, being the 12 months ended 30th June in each year.

Exported in Twelve months.	Quarter ended 30th September.		Quarter ended 31st December.		Quarter ended 31st March.		Quarter ended 30th June.		Total Twelve months.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Crop season		£		£		£		£		£
1860-61	184	4,700	356	8,920	187	4,267	139	3,399	867	21,286
1861-62	202	5,065	246	6,712	144	3,942	67	1,969	659	17,678
1862-63	125	4,506	445	10,761	168	4,238	85	1,991	823	21,486
1863-64	335	4,984	810	14,949	923	19,342	356	7,603	2,323	46,778
1864-65	1,066	25,133	1,826	42,230	1,046	22,500	414	8,651	4,342	96,514
1865-66	822	18,162	1,367	27,042	901	16,043	264	4,966	3,414	66,213
1866-67	781	16,945	1,306	28,227	803	17,060	283	6,091	3,174	68,323
1867-68	746	15,266	1,722	32,166	1,557	29,691	627	12,297	4,652	89,519
1868-69	790	16,185	1,689	32,114	2,611	46,787	1,069	21,606	6,159	116,092
1869-70	1,440	29,227	2,367	48,091	1,285	27,223	482	9,905	5,564	114,446
1870-71	1,474	32,338	2,066	41,667	2,727	56,571	1,374	28,964	7,661	159,430

I add to it a statement of the wool exported in the ten years from 1861 to 1870 inclusive, and in the nine months of 1871, ending on the 30th September last.

ACCOUNT of WOOL EXPORTED in years (ended 31st December), from 1861 to 1870, with 9 months (ended 30th September) of 1871.

Years.	Lbs. weight.	Value.
1861 - - - -	647,679	£ 82,880
1862 - - - -	906,823	38,432
1863 - - - -	1,184,621	48,519
1864 - - - -	1,443,654	61,590
1865 - - - -	1,567,952	66,647
1866 - - - -	1,660,330	70,993
1867 - - - -	1,974,447	80,999
1868 - - - -	2,717,381	91,630
1869 - - - -	3,850,437	105,544
1870 - - - -	3,612,501	120,778
Nine months of 1871 -	4,814,710	140,597

10. That the import trade of the Colony has progressively increased since 1866, the year of the greatest depression which supervened upon the overtrading of previous years, is, I think, conclusively shown by the following statement of the value of imports, and of Customs revenue received, being a comparison of receipts at ad valorem and at specific rates of duty, with the relative values of ad valorem and rated goods respectively, exhibiting the percentage borne by the former to the total return of imports.

Customs Duties and Value of Imports.

COMPARISON of RECEIPTS of SPECIFIC and AD VALOREM RATES of DUTIES; also RELATIVE VALUES of RATED and AD VALOREM GOODS, showing percentage of the latter to TOTAL IMPORTS.

Years.	Duties Received.			Value of Goods Imported.			Percentage proportion of ad valorem Goods to total Imports.
	Rated Goods.	Ad valorem.	Total Receipts.	Rated Goods.	Ad valorem.	Total Receipts.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Per cent.
1866 - - -	18,828	10,534	29,362	105,204	158,101	263,305	60
1867 - - -	23,129	12,309	35,438	88,136	181,444	269,580	67
1868 - - -	14,333	15,598	29,931	98,437	223,999	317,432	70
1869 - - -	20,078	18,952	39,030	112,610	267,721	380,331	70
1870 - - -	24,298	20,677	44,970	126,327	303,200	429,527	71
Nine months of 1871	17,338	16,288	33,526	96,476	248,000	344,476	72

The value of ad valorem goods is on an average 71 per cent. of the entire importations. These represent the bulk of the commerce of the Colony. Rated goods consist mainly of spirits, wine, and such like articles of consumption, and serve to indicate but very slightly the progress of general trade. The second column in this statement shows that the revenue derived from this class of goods has grown steadily and without a check since the disastrous years above mentioned.

11. The statistics of 1871 rather than those of 1870 will exhibit the extent to which agricultural pursuits have been effected by the movement of the population of the Colony towards the Diamond-fields. At the present moment farmers who have remained in the Colony are reaping the advantages of high prices, while to the consumer the cost of living is very considerably on the increase.

12. As compared with 1869 the returns given in the Blue Book for 1870, do not lead to the conclusion that any very unfavourable result had yet been produced. The number of acres under various crops throughout the Colony in white hands which were reaped in that year was greater than in 1869 by 1,347. The number in native hands is given at 24,433 more than in 1869. The number of acres in crop at the close of 1870, in the hands of colonists stands, as compared with the returns for the previous year, at an increase of 5,968, the number in native hands at an increase of 36,214. Of live stock possessed by Europeans and natives respectively the returns exhibit as regards the former a small falling off in horses, but as regards the latter about an equivalent increase. There was during the year much horse sickness, especially on the coast. Of horned cattle, sheep, and goats, the only instance of falling off is in the number of non-wool-producing sheep possessed by natives, whose cattle and goats, however, multiplied considerably. When the live stock in the hands of the native population is kept well up in numbers, it is a sure sign that there is plenty of food in the country. This is also shown by the average price of Indian corn throughout the year, which is given at 6s. 4½d. per muid. In 1869 it reached 14s. 5½d. per muid.

13. The most noticeable advance in production during the year under review is in the article of coffee, which rose in quantity from 4,058 lbs. grown in 1869 to no less than 1,014,210 lbs. It is probable that in a short time the market at the Diamond-fields will be mainly, if not entirely, supplied with sugar and coffee from the coast districts of Natal. It is important to the formation of a judgment upon the development of industry and enterprise in these districts that this destination of their products should be kept in view, because it will necessarily be accompanied by a falling off in the amounts of exports by sea, by which in ordinary circumstances progress is apt to be exclusively measured.

14. There is nothing which will show so clearly that the discovery of diamonds in the Vaal River had in 1870 not yet produced any great change in the ordinary condition of life in the Colony, as a comparison of the returns for 1869 and 1870 of the average market prices of live stock and produce. The returns for 1871 will no doubt present a very different picture.

15. I have already in my Despatches, No. 112, of November 30th,

NATAL,
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1871, and No. 123, of December 21st, 1871, reported upon the state of the hospitals and gaols of the Colony. I regret that as regards education time fails me to do more than request your Lordship's attention to two Reports enclosed of the Superintendent of Education, who is also visitor of native schools.

16. The year 1871 was fixed upon for taking a general census throughout the British dominions. For reasons adduced in my Despatch, No. 48, of 5th July, 1870, the population statistics given in the Annual Blue Books must be taken, as regards this Colony, as the only possible approach to an enumeration of its inhabitants; and I have endeavoured to ensure that those prepared for the Blue Book for 1870 should be very carefully made up. It will be desirable that a special Report should be made upon these returns when received, so as to connect them as far as possible with the general census. In the mean time it would serve little purpose, at this late date, to comment upon those contained in the compilation now transmitted.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1
in No. 11.

Enclosure 1 in No. 11.

NATIVE SCHOOLS.

Industrial
School.

1. *Industrial School*.—With the year 1869 the grants which had hitherto been made to various mission stations for industrial purposes ceased, excepting a grant to Springvale, which was continued to the middle of 1870, in order to enable the Rev. H. Calloway to finish some printing in which he was engaged.

The American
Missions.

2. *The American Missions*.—Within the period of 1869–70 the American missionaries have been carrying out their plan of supplying the native schools of their own and other Missions with native teachers, and with this view of maintaining and enlarging their central training schools for native boys at Amanzimtote, and for native girls at the Inanda.

3. Their system is this: to take native lads, who have shown aptitude for learning, from the various Mission stations, and send them to the Amanzimtote, there to put the lads under a thorough discipline, to wean them from their native habits, by accustoming them to the habits of a civilized life, and to give them such a schooling as may enable them, when they have grown up, to become teachers at the stations and at the kraals of the natives.

4. In connection with this object the girls' school at the Inanda has been established. The best girls are sent from the various stations and accustomed, under a strict discipline, to the habits of civilization. They are then to be married to the lads at the Amanzimtote station, so as to stop, if possible, the tendency of the semi-civilized native to fall back on the habits of the kraal, when he marries a girl who has had no such training as that through which he himself has passed.

The results of this curious experiment to raise up among the natives a caste of (comparatively speaking) learned men, with learned wives, who can also wash, and sew, and dress themselves, and cook food in our fashion, have yet to be seen. It is a part of an experiment, which the Americans have undertaken; and it consists, in fact, in reversing, to a considerable extent, the system of proselytizing hitherto adopted; for, whereas the plan of missionaries has been, and still is, to draw the Kaffir from his kraal to the school and church at the station, the object of the American missionaries is to plant the school and the church in the kraal.

5. It is perhaps to be regretted that this attempt (so far as it concerns supplying schools and teachers to the kraals) could not have been made by the Government, rather than by a religious body.

The native teacher, under the shadow of the Mission station, may contrive to keep a school about him under the influence of the missionary, whose servant he is, and he may be able to hold his own in those little bodies of semicivilized natives, who here and there are found living in square houses in villages by themselves (as at New Leeds, and at Springfield, behind the Berea, and at Empoleveni), removed from the authority of a chief or headman, and from the customs and laws of the kraal; but also, away from the Mission station, though under the spiritual guidance of some member of a religious body. It remains to be seen whether the headman or chief will welcome to the kraal a native who comes professing not only to teach the children of the kraal reading, writing, ciphering, those mystic signs, in fact, with which the white man works such wonders, but also to teach certain principles subversive of the ancient customs of the kraal, and consequently of the authority of the chief, without, so far as he can see, making his people more powerful or better men.

6. The American schools are all on the coast range; above Durban there are at the Inanda a common school, and the central training (girls) schools, Esidumbini, Umsunduzi, and Umvoti, each with a day school, and Mapumulo, with a day and evening school.

7. *Inanda*.—The Inanda common school at present is only in the Second Class Drawing, 24l., both on account of its numbers and from the position which its head, the Rev. Dr. Lindley, holds, the grant to this station should be placed in the First Class Drawing, 50l. Inanda.

8. *Umsunduzi*.—From the register of the school at Umsunduzi it would seem that the attendance is as large as at the Inanda; the acting visitor, in 1869, however, stayed a night, and waited till nearly midday on the morrow, but the missionary was unable to muster more than half-a-dozen lads from the kraals to make a school. Umsunduzi.

9. *Umvoti*.—Mr. Grout is in America, so that the school at the Umvoti Mission, over which he presided, is in charge of Rev. D. Rood, from the Amanzimtote. An effort has been made to induce the natives settled at this station (who are doing well) to support their own schools; at present, apparently, to little purpose, to judge from the returns, but Mr. Rood is going to insist on their partially supporting their teachers in 1871. They have two native schoolmasters, who were trained at Amanzimtote; here, as at the Amanzimtote station, Mr. Rood reports a balance in hand of some 20l. of Umvoti.

NATAL.

the grant, after the native teachers have been paid; there seems, therefore, to be no occasion to keep up the whole grant of 50*l.*, particularly if Mr. Rood succeeds in his attempts to make the natives pay for their own teachers.

Esidumbini.

10. *Esidrimbini*.—The school at Esidumbini, in like manner, is in charge of a Mr. Peacefull, in the absence in America of Rev. J. Tyler.

Mapumulo.

11. *Mapumulo*.—The school at Mapumulo is in good order. The Rev. A. Abraham has added lately a schoolmistress (white) and two (native) assistants. I have had occasion to notice that this school has been at work when I have come to the station unexpectedly. I think this school, from its character and numbers, should receive the higher grant of 50*l.*

12. The Inanda Training School for native girls, after many delays, caused particularly by the difficulty of finding a thoroughly competent mistress, was at length opened in March, 1869, in charge of Mrs. Edwards. The buildings form three sides of an oblong: in the front and centre are Mrs. Edward's rooms; the right wing holds the schoolroom, dining-room, and kitchen; the other wing holds the girls' bedrooms, a washing-room, and store-rooms, have still to be added to complete the fourth side of the oblong. Great pains are taken to drill the girls in the habits of civilized life. When the school was first opened, and furniture was all to be found, there was nothing for it but to put the pot on the ground, round which the girls squatted, in Kaffir fashion, and served out the "scoff" (porridge) to and over each other. This has long since passed way. Now they sit on forms, at a table, and the food is brought in from the kitchen, and is duly served out to them on platters. Three girls are told off each week to clean dishes, cook, and feed the fire. Another party has to clean the rooms. They sleep on bedsteads; i. e. off the floor, and wear blue cotton frocks.

13. The schoolroom is the best-finished room, in its way, in the Colony. The furniture was brought from America; and the careful love of the American for the place where his child is getting his schooling shows itself in the beauty and neatness of every article in the schoolroom, from the curious little weapons for sharpening pencils up to the pretty desks and forms, with their iron legs and mouldings painted blue, in contrast to the light maple-wood of the desks and seats.

14. There were 23 girls when the acting visitor was there in August, 1869: since that time the school has increased till it has 30, and the present buildings can hold no more.

15. Nothing is more striking than the quiet order and promptness with which everything is done in the schoolroom. Outside, when at liberty, they are a set of noisy hoydens, screaming and gesticulating, with arms and legs like the savages they still are, but in the schoolroom they are as orderly as any quiet school of white girls. Putting the personal influence of Mrs. Edwards aside, this quiet and order is the result of the admirable school drill, as precise and unchanging as the drill of troops, and producing similar results, especially in this, that obedience to orders becomes easy, prompt, almost involuntary, to the great increase of efficiency and saving of time and temper.

NATAL.
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16. As an example of their mere school attainments, I mention that I examined them, after they had been six months under Mrs. Edwards, and though it is true they had been (probably all of them) to some one or other of the schools of the stations whence they had been drafted, yet it is no disparagement to those schools to say that I have never known any results such as the following: 20 of them were working sums in arithmetic; of these 8 were in Colenzo Progressive Examples, Series 1, Ex. 26, and each girl took a separate sum, of which this is a sample: $92\text{ l. }0\text{ s. }9\frac{1}{2}\text{ d.} \times 9$, out of these 8, 7 had their sums right. Another class of 6 were working in short division, and a third class of 6 in simple multiplication, with more or less failures; still with intelligence and accuracy.

17. These are results which compare favourably with any white school in the Colony (excepting the high schools); but it must be remembered that our schools are, from necessity, made up of most unequal materials; and while several scholars in a school, of course, can do much more difficult work than this, others in the same school cannot do nearly as well. Mrs. Edwards teaches them entirely in English; and, while learning Zulu, has or had an assistant, Miss Rood, to act as interpreter in some lessons; as, for instance, in English reading, to secure that they understand what they read, by making them translate it into Zulu.

18. I think a liberal grant to this school, say 200*l.*, to enable them to enlarge their present quarters, so as to take in more boarders, would be well spent if the objects which the school has in view continue to meet the approbation of the Government.

19. *American Schools below Durban.*—Along the coast, on the other side of Durban, the following are the schools belonging to the American Mission. At Amanzimtote a central training-school for boys, and a common school; a common day school at Ipune, Amahlongwa, Ifafa, and Umtwalume, and at Unzumbe (the most southerly station, some three hours from the Umzimkulu, the old boundary of our Colony), a common day and evening school

American
Schools below
Durban.

20. Pursuing their plan of substituting native teachers for whites, the missionaries have withdrawn from the Ipune and Amahlongeva Stations, and the schools are left in charge of masters trained at the Amanzimtote school: the common school at Amanzimtote itself is left in charge of two natives, a man and a woman; while the only schools still under white masters are at Umzumbe, where Mrs. Robbins has a school, with a native under her, Umtwalume, which, in the absence of the Rev. H. Wilder, has been admirably conducted by Mrs. Hooper, and at Ifafa, which, however, has just been closed.

20a. *Amanzimtote Common School.*—I do not think that those schools, at which a native presides, require more than a grant of 24*l.* for purposes strictly of education. At Amanzimtote, for instance, Mr. Rood has been at a loss to know what to do with more than 25*l.*, and has asked for leave to apply a portion of the grant (50*l.*) to paying a teacher in a kraal some miles off. I think the grant at Amanzimtote should be reduced to 24*l.*, with the understanding that Mr. Rood, or Mr. Pixly (whoever is the present manager of the station) should get a grant of, say 12*l.*, for the outlying school, if the school requires it.

Amanzimtote
Common
School.

NATAL.

Ifafa.

21. *Ifafa*.—The school at the Ifafa Mission was not in a satisfactory condition when I was there in September, 1870. The missionary in charge of the station had just left for America, and I have not yet heard to what resolution the missionaries have come as to the future management of the station. At present I see no reason for continuing the grant.

May 1, 1871.—Since this Report was written, I have heard from the Rev. Mr. Wilder that he has put a native teacher at this station, with a regular attendance of 25. It may be advisable, therefore, to keep a grant of 12*l.* for this case.

Amanzimtote
Central
Training
School for
Native Boys.

22. *Amanzimtote Central Training School for Native Boys*.—The central training school for boys at Amanzimtote, under the Rev. W. Ireland's management, has steadily increased in numbers and efficiency from 1866, when I found 18 scholars, who had only been gathered together about two months in a schoolroom, which at that time was not large enough for them, to 1868, when the room had been enlarged, and there were 29 scholars present, with 32 on the books, until in last September, when I found 41 present and 42 on the books; and the enlarged room was no longer large enough for the health of the lads; and, with signs of sickness among them, it has become necessary to make a great effort to place the institution at once on a larger basis, so as to meet the increasing demand for trained natives in the various native schools in the Colony. The mission has asked the Government for aid in erecting new and extensive buildings, which may not require enlargement for a long time to come. They have asked for a grant of 500*l.* or 600*l.*§

§May 1, 1871.—I have just received the estimated expense of the works, which are already begun. They estimate that the buildings alone will cost 630*l.*, exclusive of all furniture.

42. The amount of aid which the Government can give the institution depends of course on considerations of which I know nothing; but considering the liberal grants which were made to the industrial schools, with very doubtful results, I hope it may be in the power of the Government to give substantial assistance to an undertaking which has already done so much. They had sent out 10 drilled masters in September last, and I know of another since that time. I have asked for a special Report on the number of teachers which have been sent out from this school.

43. As instances of the proficiency which these lads have required, I mention that I heard a class of 7 in mental arithmetic, to each of whom a sum was given to be worked out in his head; such as—

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ of } 27\frac{3}{4} = \text{how much?}$$

6 boys answered aright; one failed, and was corrected by the fifth boy in the class. The questions and answers are given in English.

44. 29 of them had each such a question as 40 is $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of how many times 8. Of these 6 failed to answer aright a first question, but answered the second question. 2 only failed to answer their second question.

45. 30 tried the following piece of dictation:—

"Water, you know, is not always in a liquid state. You have seen it changed by cold into ice, and by heat into steam, or vapour. You must have observed, too, that ice is changed back into water by heat, and steam by cold."

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Two had no errors, and the whole had an average of 6 errors each.

46. 7 were in Algebra, using Colenzo's 'Algebra,' working such sums as—

$$a\frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{3} + 6\frac{2}{3} \mid a \cdot x - ' + 6^{\circ}C.$$

11 others were in vulgar fractions; 5 were in division of money; 5 in multiplication of money; 4 in addition of money; and 9 in the earlier rules.

And all working accurately, and with comparative ease.

47. With every allowance for the fact that these are picked lads from 14 to 18 years old, these results are surprising for this Colony, whatever may be thought of them elsewhere.

48. *P. M. Burg Central Training School*.—The Training School at P. M. Burg, belonging to the Free Kirk of Scotland, under the Rev. James Allison, has 12 scholars, some of these act as teachers to the large evening school of adults. The new country station at Empoliveni has a school of thirty-one, they are all very young and the teaching at present is confined to Kafir. P. M. Burg
Central
Training
School.

Empoliveni.

49. *Wesleyan Church (Native)*.—Of the schools belonging to the Wesleyan Church, three industrial schools were closed at the end of 1869, viz. at Indaleni, Edendale, and Verulam: the common day schools continue at those places, and a day and evening school at P. M. Burg, and an evening school at Durban. Wesleyan
Church
(Native).

50. *Verulam*.—The school at Verulam was visited by me in September, 1869, and was not in a satisfactory condition: several changes in the supervision of the station had taken place; the Rev. S. H. Stott had only lately come to take charge, and at the time of my visit the school could hardly be said to exist. Mr. Stott has a character for energy and management, and the returns for 1870 seem to show improvement, it is one of the few schools where Zulu is not now taught as a preliminary to English. Verulam.

51. *Church of South Africa*.—Application has lately been made by the Rev. James Green for a grant in support of a native common day school, and an evening school held in the new Church of St. Martin's. The visitor found a day school of 14, with 25 on the register in charge of a white teacher (a Mr. Markhym), who has been employed in similar work for several years; on another day the visitor found an evening school of 46 present. I think this school the first in the city, founded by the South African body, should be put on the same footing as the St. Mary's school, and receive a grant of 50*l*. Church of
South Africa.

52. *High Flats*.—The Rev. H. Calloway has a school and chapel at High Flats, with an attendance of 25 scholars on an average, and 60 on the list; he has applied for a grant. There is a considerable population of whites, half-castes, and blacks, quite sufficient for a common school; some of the Ogles are there. I think a grant of 24*l*. might be made. High Flats.

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Church of
England
Mission,
Euwabe.

53. *Church of England Mission, Euwabe.*—There was a station and school on the coast near Isipingo, which in 1866 was found by the acting visitor in charge of the Rev. W. Baugh; this station had once been nearer the coast, at Clairmont, but as the sugar plantations were made, troubles arose about cattle trespassing and the station was moved inland; what with the removal of the station, and the declining health of the Missionary and his wife, the school was not in a thriving condition, and subsequently the Missionary left the station altogether. At the end of 1869, the Bishop of Natal placed a Missionary in charge of the station, who has re-opened the school, and has had a steady attendance of 16 during the year; the school-house was in utter decay, and a new school is necessary; the school should be put in the 2nd class, receiving a grant of 24*l.* a year; and I recommend a grant of 30*l.* to be made towards the expenses of the new school-house.

Wesleyan
School at
New Leeds.

54. *Wesleyan School at New Leeds.*—An application was made in 1869, by the Rev. W. Mason, for a grant to a school at New Leeds which had been supported entirely by a group of native families. I visited the school and was much pleased at the cleanliness, good order, and sprightliness of the children in the school; they had a native teacher, who had been brought up at the Cape, at Mr. Ayliff's school; there were 16 children present; their writing was excellent, clean and careful, and what they knew of arithmetic and reading, they knew well and accurately. As this is an instance in which the natives have endeavoured to maintain their own schoolmaster, I strongly recommend it for a grant equal to that made under the same circumstances for the group of families at Springfield, on the Berea, viz. of 18*l.*

55. The Rev. D. Lindley reports the existence of a school in a kraal, about three miles away from the Inanda station; it has been in existence more than a year and has 30 scholars in it. The native in charge of it is a teacher well known to Mr. Lindley; I recommend this school for a grant of 12*l.*

56. The visitor who has been absent for some years in England resigned at the end of June, 1870, and the acting visitor received the appointment.

(Signed)

T. WARWICK BROOKS,
Visitor of Native Schools.

Pietermaritzburg,
March 1, 1871.

Enclosure 2
in No. 11.

Enclosure 2 in No. 11.

REPORT OF THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION FOR
THE YEAR 1870.

1. The measures under the consideration of the Government for the development of our system of education have once more been postponed, while the question of colonial finance remains unsettled.

2. One measure which the Government has for some time had in view is to substitute, in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, Model Schools, supported and managed by the Government, for schools as at present aided by grants.

3. The heads of these schools will probably have to be sought in England for some time to come; they must be qualified, by their training at home, to supply, from the ranks of their scholars, teachers capable of taking charge of the country schools in the Colony.

4. To enable young men and women to acquire the art of teaching at these central training schools, it may be necessary to pay them a small salary in order that they may be able to remain at school somewhat longer than is usual with those of our young people, who have to begin early to earn their livelihood.

5. Another object which the Government has in view is to appropriate, from year to year, such a sum of money as the Colony can afford for the purpose of building school-houses on public land. There need be no fear that Government, in thus acting, will supersede or interfere with private efforts; the system partially at work at present, as regards granting aids to maintain schools, might be equally applied to granting aids to building schools; that is to say, the Government grants for building might bear some fixed proportion to the support in money, or money's worth, guaranteed by the neighbourhood which applies for a building grant; and the local management of the school might remain, as now (where the material for a committee exists) in the hands of a committee; the Government would only have to be satisfied: (i.) That the land was duly and legally alienated for the purpose of public education; (ii.) That the school should be, as is the case at present with aided schools, under the inspection of an officer or board appointed or sanctioned by the Government.

6. The Superintendent of Education, who has been absent from this Colony since April, 1866, on public service not connected with this department, resigned his office of Superintendent at the end of June; the vacancy thus created remains unfilled, awaiting the settlement of our colonial finance.

7. When, or if, the vacancy is supplied, it will be necessary to allow the Superintendent some clerical assistance; the present business of the office in Pietermaritzburg, which could well be discharged by a clerk, occupies time which the Superintendent should have for inspecting schools in the Colony.

8. The High School, Pietermaritzburg, which had an average attendance of 21 in 1869, has had, throughout 1870, a steady attendance, averaging 28; this arrested increase, under the present able management, seems to indicate that the present scholars are all whose parents can pay the present fee without inconvenience, and the Government has had under its consideration whether it would be possible to lower the fees without materially diminishing the revenue derived from them.

9. At Durban the Government has at length secured larger quarters for the High School; the rooms hitherto occupied by the High School were not large enough to hold more than 30 scholars, and the Head Master has had to refuse numerous applications which have been made to him to admit scholars; the change of quarters has afforded an opportunity of trying whether the fees could be lowered, and the number of scholars so increased at the same time, as to save the revenue from much loss, and the Lieutenant-Governor has ordered a reduction of the fees hitherto demanded to a uniform fee of ten shillings a month, to commence with the New Year; if the reduction works

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fairly a similar reduction may be made at the High School, Pietermaritzburg.

10. The condition of the two Government Schools continues to be unsatisfactory. The Government School at Pietermaritzburg had an average attendance of—

104	in the year	1867
100	"	1868
87	"	1869
79	"	1870

The cost of this school to the Government in 1870 has been—

	£	s.	d.
Head Master - - - - -	200	0	0
Assistant Teachers - - - - -	200	0	0
Rent of Schoolhouse - - - - -	36	0	0
Petty expenses - • - - - -	16	10	8
Total - - - - -	£452	10	8

i.e. the cost of each average attendant in the year has been over 114 shillings. The school fees in the year have amounted to 43*l.* 15*s.*

11. The Government School at Durban had an average attendance of—

118	in the year	1867
94	"	1868
87	"	1869
69·5	"	1870

The cost of this school has been, in 1870 :

	£	s.	d.
Head Master - - - - -	200	0	0
Assistant Teachers - - - - -	150	0	0
Petty expenses - - - - -	17	18	2
Total - - - - -	£367	18	2

or at the rate of 106 shillings a head.

The school fees in the year have amounted to 32*l.* 6*s.*

12. Making allowance, on the one hand, for the increased activity of private or denominational schools in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, but considering, on the other hand, what advantage these Government Schools have over others (as, for instance, a greater command of money, the independence of the master of every one save the Government), it is difficult not arrive at one or other of these conclusions, viz. : either that such improvements must be made in the management of these schools as to make them attractive and useful to many more scholars than those who at present attend; or that the expenses must be reduced; or that the schools be closed altogether.

13. The number of aided schools in 1870 was 65; 10 itinerants and 7 grants.

The total cost of the schools maintained or aided by Government during 1870 was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Government aid - - - - -	4,097	0	6
Private aid - - - - -	5,124	2	8
Total - - - - -	£9,221	2	9

There were—

Government Schools	-	-	-	-	4
Aided Schools	-	-	-	-	65
Itinerant Schools	-	-	-	-	10
Total	-	-	-	-	79

And the average attendance at the end of the year was 1,797; hence we have 22·7 as the average attendance at the schools, and 102 shillings as the cost a head.

14. The following books, maps, &c., were issued in the Educational Department during the year:—

Books	-	-	-	-	2,076
Copy Books	-	-	-	-	2,421
Maps	-	-	-	-	25
Registers	-	-	-	-	91
Wall Tablets	-	-	-	-	90
Total	-	-	-	-	4,703

Of these the following were sold:—

Books	-	-	-	-	1,228
Copy Books	-	-	-	-	2,277
Maps	-	-	-	-	0
Wall Tablets	-	-	-	-	12
Total	-	-	-	-	3,517

For which books the sum of 57*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* has been paid into the Treasury; this is, within a few pounds, the sum which has been paid in each year for some time from the sale of books, and the grant for books, maps, &c., has been for some time 50*l.* each year; consequently, by means of the large stock of books provided by the Superintendent up to 1866, and the small yearly additions purchased with the 50*l.* vote, the department has been able to furnish schools at their commencement, or schools in poor neighbourhoods, with the necessary class books, as well as schools, both public and private, with good wall maps at no present cost to the Colony.

15. Comparing the present returns with those of former years, it is noticeable that the attendance continues to increase, though not so much as in the two previous years. In 1867 the attendance which had been falling during the two past years to 1,290, rose—

In 1868, to 1,491
 „ 1869, „ 1,712
 „ 1870, „ 1,797

The public aid to schools in the past year (4,097*l.*) is slightly in excess of the sums spent in the three previous years, but has not attained to the amounts spent in 1865, 1866, viz. 4,158*l.* and 4,494*l.* respectively.

16. In Pietermaritzburg, the Chapel Street School has, in the

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course of the year, raised its average attendance to 36, and has fairly earned the higher grant of 50*l*.

17. At Richmond the girls' school has developed into a boarding school, to which its supporters have given the name of St. Mary's College. It is under the general superintendence of the Rev. T. G. Fearn; in October he secured the services of Mrs. Longhurst, whose useful school in Pietermaritzburg had just begun to receive a Government grant; considerable difficulties have attended, and still attend, this undertaking, which requires no small outlay for buildings and furniture in a Colony where neither capital nor labour is abundant; a good boarding school, giving a fair education on moderate terms to the daughters of our colonists, is an object (to say the least of it) as desirable as boarding schools for our boys.

18. A day school for girls remains in charge of Mrs. Earnshaw.

19. Another year has passed without the Government having been able to secure a title to the land and school-house occupied by Mr. Kearsley's school; the attendance has been falling off, and the school cannot claim for the year a higher grant than 25*l*.

20. Removals have taken place among the little group of families which supported the school at Clarendon; the school has been closed, and its master has taken charge of the school at Fort Nottingham.

21. The school at Malton last year received a new master, but it seems unable to maintain its numbers, and can barely claim the continuance even of the diminished grant.

22. The Rev. C. Maber has encountered delays in getting a boarding school at work for the neighbourhood of Boston, so that there has been no school held there during the year.

23. Both at Broughton and Albert the schools are prospering, and at both the plan of taking boarders is successfully carried out.

24. The schools at Lions' River and Sterk Spruit were closed in June, but, under Miss Russell, a school has been opened at Caversham with the view of supplying the wants of both places.

25. In Durban the Coolie Schools, under the Rev. R. Stott, hold their ground; in the absence of any municipal organization for giving the children of the Coolies in Durban the means of education, all that has at present been done is to keep a common day school on foot, and an evening school, in which young men can be trained to act as teachers in other schools as they spring up; this has already been the case at Mr. Robinson's Estate at the Lower Umkomanzi, and will (there is reason to hope) be the case on other estates on the coast; the Coolies themselves care little for the schooling which their children get, and will not allow their girls to learn at all; they subscribe nothing towards their schools except by giving the master occasional presents of food.

26. During the year, the school held in St. Joseph's has steadily increased its numbers, and has gained the full aid of 50*l*.

27. St. Cyprian's also has a good and thriving school of 52 scholars at the end of the year; it has made good its claim to a grant of 50*l*, the highest which the Government, under present circumstances, allows to schools of this class; both these schools, which are, in a measure, rivals, and successful rivals of the Government School, are held at present in the body of their respective Churches; whether for this

or other reasons, the tone of these schools compares favourably with that of the Government School.

28. Berea. This school, which was almost extinct at the end of 1869, secured the services of Mrs. Rippon; under her the school has prospered, and has had a steady attendance through the year averaging 41.

29. The boys' school at Addington was closed at the end of the second quarter; thereupon the Rev. F. S. Robinson endeavoured to organize a school at the Point, and succeeded; on leaving for England he put the school in the charge of the Rev. C. Kirke, whose sudden death has interfered with the prospects of a school for which there is much need.

30. Both the Mansion House and Kennington Schools provide means of education of a superior kind for girls in Durban. Under the present system these schools have earned grants in aid by the good results which they showed; facts, both at Pietermatitzburg and at Durban, prove that this kind of school can hardly be maintained without Government aid.

31. At Pinetown the school-house has been unfortunately destroyed by lightning; Mr. Welch for a time allowed his Chapel to be used by the school. The School Committee applied to Government for an aid in building a new school-house, but the Lieutenant-Governor, in reply (agreeing with the principle of the application), felt unable to comply with the request at present, until, in fact, the subject of public grants for school building had been discussed and arranged between the Governor and the Council, for which the present time did not seem opportune.

32. The school at Ifafa has been closed, and those at Esinkomheni and Umtwalume have fallen off until their present numbers are too small to justify a continuance of their grants.

33. Isipingo. The school here has been receiving a 50*l.* grant, but its average attendance has fallen considerably below the numbers required to maintain that grant, and there is not anything in the teaching of an exceptional character. The grant should be reduced to 36*l.*

34. The attempt to establish a school, which should be a central boarding school to a district, appears once more to have failed at Ladysmith; the Rev. W. O. Newnham has established a good school there, and has boarders from distant parts of the Colony, but not from the neighbourhood, for which this school was intended to afford a means of education, cheap and easy of access. In the same manner disappointment has attended the efforts in Klip River to establish permanent schools; at Burnside and Dundee the schools, which there was reason to hope would have an existence at least for some years, are closed; and so, at the other side of the Klip River County, the school at Du Plessis has also been closed.

35. In Victoria County the schools at Mount Moreland, Rose Hill, and Inanda, make no advance. Schools in these small country districts depend for their support on the presence or absence of one or two families; as these come or go the school rises above or falls below the number required under the rule of 1862 to entitle a school to draw a grant.

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36. Verulam School has had the advantage of the Rev. Jas. Boyd's care since 1866, and it is to be regretted that he is about to resign. In consideration of the high character of the master, and the local support given to this school, it has retained throughout a grant of 70*l*. Mr. Boyd's teaching was vigorous, exact, and intelligent, and it will be difficult to supply his place.

37. Rev. T. Taylor's School at Greytown hardly keeps up its numbers, and the girls' school has lately lost its mistress, and is a present closed. At Welgefonden the families were purposing to build a school-house and a dwelling-house for the master when the Acting-Superintendent visited the school in June; since that time the scheme has been abandoned, and at present there seems no prospect of its being carried out; the school continues to be held in the lean-to of a farm-house, by no means large enough for the number of scholars; it maintains its numbers, its master, Mr. Sheridan, has been raised from the rank of an itinerant, and the school now receives a grant in proportion to the number of its scholars.

38. The same permanent character has been acquired by the school at Nooitgedacht. The parents of the families there, as at Welgefonden, seem to understand that the old system of teachers, who stay for a few months in a farm-house and then move elsewhere, is expensive and of little permanent value; the other system, viz. that of sending children to a stationary school, causes trouble, doubtless, and some sacrifice, but there can be no doubt that it is the right method to promote education in the country districts; it will be some time, however, before the advantages of the system are felt by the farmers, and generally adopted.

39. The boarding school at the Hermannsburg Mission continues to prosper and to increase its numbers, ending the year 1870 with an average attendance of 82 against 77 of 1869. Its energetic Head Master has been largely adding to the buildings, to increase the comfort of the scholars, and to provide quarters for additional masters from Europe.

40. Mr. Harding has succeeded in reviving the school at Weenen; the local support is still very insufficient, but the attendance during the year has been 29.

41. At Kruisfontein an itinerant teacher seems to have established a school of sufficient permanence and numbers to give hope of the school receiving a grant.

42. The Legislative Council this year has approved of the vote for "New and Additional Grants" for 1871, and has, by so doing, given the Government the means of assisting schools in the process of forming, or of rewarding the efforts of schools already at work.

43. The difficulties which appeared last year sufficient to prevent the introduction of the Middle Class Examination System into the Colony have been removed, and the Syndicate has resolved to extend its examination to the Colony; it was too late before their resolution was conveyed to us to do anything in 1870, but we may hope to see the system at work in 1871 or 1872.

It will take a year or two more for the colonists to become accustomed to the system, and to avail themselves of it; when that time comes it may be hoped that some settlement of our financial troubles

will have been arrived at; until then it would be premature to do more than to suggest that these examinations should be supplemented by exhibitions to enable a successful candidate to pursue his studies in Europe, or by appointments in the Civil Service of the Colony.

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T. WARWICK BROOKS,

Acting Superintendent of Education.

Office Superintendent of Education,

March 1, 1871.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor PATEY to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD,

St. Helena, April 20, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1870.

I have already had occasion to bring under your Lordship's notice that the past year has been one of great depression in the Island, caused mainly by the decrease in the shipping trade, and the reduction of the Military Establishments hitherto maintained on this Island.

3. The stagnation in the trade of the place has very materially affected the sources of revenue. In my Despatch, No. 72, 25th August, 1870, I reported to your Lordship that I saw reason to anticipate that the amount of revenue for 1870 would fall probably 6,500*l.* below the amount which had been estimated for that year. I regret to say that this has proved to be the case;

The actual receipts being	-	-	-	£	s.	d.
				15,973	17	4
The estimated revenue for 1870	-	-	-	22,355	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£6,881		
				2 8		

4. Every possible opportunity has been taken to reduce the expenditure, but some of the large items of reduction could not take immediate effect.

The expenditure for 1870 amounted to	-	-	-	£	
				18,948	
Estimated expenditure	-	-	-	22,176	
				<hr/>	
				£3,233	

5. In consequence of the want of funds some of the claims still remain unsettled. The debt also due for the conveyance of mails at the end of 1869 has now been further increased by the amount for the year 1870, and the contract still remains in force, and will not expire until 30th June, 1871.

ST. HELENA.

6. The imports for the last three years show—

	£
1868 - - -	117,110
1869 - - -	122,759
1870 - - -	84,781

In the above return of imports is included the value of oil from the Southern Whale Fishery, landed at St. Helena, and afterwards reshipped to the United States. When this item is deducted, the imports for 1870 will show 61,000*l.* as against 87,260*l.* in 1869, the difference arising chiefly from a falling off in the imports from the United Kingdom to the amount of 18,941*l.*, owing doubtless to the failure in the local trade.

7. The number of vessels which have paid tonnage dues amount to—

1868 - - -	749 vessels,	453,827 tons.
1869 - - -	746 "	473,116 "
1870 - - -	677 "	441,472 "

A much larger number pass through the port on their homeward voyage without anchoring or taking supplies, and those that anchor require on an average a much smaller proportion of supplies than was usual a few years since, owing principally to the increased facilities which now exist for provisioning ships for the entire voyage, rendering them independent of supplies at intermediate ports.

8. The supply also to Coolie ships and troop-ships, which formed a considerable item in former years, is now much reduced. The Coolie ships are now provided with condensers, by which means they supply themselves with fresh water, and the troops from India return home by way of the Red Sea.

Agriculture.

9. The agricultural state of the Island is very low. The principal portion of the cattle and sheep consumed on the Island or supplied to the shipping is imported from the Cape of Good Hope, and these are of very inferior quality.

Some thousand acres of grazing land are entirely unoccupied, and the few cattle and sheep belonging to the islanders are in most instances much neglected.

No. of cattle,
1,105.
No. of sheep,
3,615.

10. The supply of vegetables is very limited. Potatoes, said to have been formerly most abundant and excellent in quality, have now greatly deteriorated, and the crops are very precarious. The same may be said of all kinds of fruit. The land, although to a certain extent productive, appears to have lost much of its former reputed fertility; great patience, care, and industry are now required to master the trials with which the cultivator of the soil has to contend. Insect pests, such as grubs, caterpillars, beetles, &c., &c., &c., prevail to a great extent, and rats and mice abound and cause much destruction to the growing crops.

11. During the last year a quantity of guano (about 1,000 tons) has been collected in the Island from covered deposits, which had

hitherto escaped notice, being found in spots to which sea birds have long ceased to resort, as well as on the small rocky islands where birds still abound. The gathering of this guano has afforded employment to a few of the labouring population at a rate of two pounds per ton. An export duty of ten shillings per ton is levied on guano.

Little use is made of the guano by the inhabitants themselves for agricultural purposes, although the experiments made with it seem to prove that very great advantage might arise from its use upon the land. Manure of any kind is little employed. Valuable manure from the stables in the town (amounting to many tons in the course of the year) is daily thrown into the sea.

12. With reference to the chinchona plantation, established by the Government in 1869, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that at the end of 1870 there were about 800 plants in a healthy thriving condition, viz. 500 of the *Chinchona succirubra* and 300 of the *C. officinalis*. The tallest of these plants had attained the height of 7 ft. 2 in. above the ground, and about 300 of them averaged 4 ft. 6 in. in height. The cultivation of the species *C. cailsaya* and *C. pahudiana* has been discontinued because it was found that they did not thrive as well as the other species.

13. The Bermuda cedar has been recently introduced by seed sent by Dr. Hooker, and planted in various positions, where they appear to thrive well. A number of Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria excelsa*) have been raised from seed grown on the Island, and have been planted out during the past year. Trees of both these species have by my direction been planted in James Town, where the temperature is very high, and they thrive apparently as well, or perhaps better, than in colder positions. A number of other trees, promising to be of use and ornament, have been planted in the grounds at Plantation. 500 coffee trees have also been planted out, and look well, but at present it is too early to form an opinion of their success. It appears that a considerable quantity of coffee was once raised on the Island, but the old plantations have now fallen into decay.

Fisheries.

14. To the return of fisheries I have appended a printed statement, furnished to me by the American Consul, showing in detail the number of whalers which have visited this port, and made it their rendezvous during the year 1870, together with the quantity of oil taken, amounting to nearly 50,000 barrels, worth at the lowest average 300,000*l*. A large portion of this oil was taken in the neighbouring seas, some in the immediate vicinity of the Island.

15. The inhabitants benefit but to a small extent from this valuable source of wealth, which, had they the energy, enterprise, and capital needful, might be turned to profitable account. A few natives are occasionally shipped as seamen on board American whalers.

16. There is an abundance of fish of good quality around the Island, but the quantity taken is very inadequate to the demand. The fishermen are mostly an idle and drunken class. A coarse kind

ST. HELENA.

of salted fish is largely imported from the Cape of Good Hope and sold at fourpence per pound. The fish of St. Helena are deemed very superior to those of the Cape.

17. I have made personal efforts to arouse and encourage the fishermen. With this object in view I have from my private funds laid out 50*l.* for the purchase of suitable boats, gear, and fishing tackle. Men were offered employment in these boats at one shilling each per diem, free of all expense, and a share of the fish caught (one-fourth part), but could not be induced to accept the offer. The remaining three-fourths was to be sold at a rate not exceeding sixpence per dozen fish to pay wages and other expenses.

Hospital.

18. I am enabled to report to your Lordship satisfactorily on the condition of the Colonial Hospital. Many improvements have been effected during the past year. I consider it to be the most creditable and valuable establishment on the Island, where sick seamen of all nations are received and carefully treated for any period of time without further charge than the one penny per ton levied on ships anchoring. I beg to express my high approval of the manner in which the colonial surgeon, Mr. C. H. Fowler, performs his very onerous duties.

The number of seamen in 1870							-	-	-	132
Civilians	{	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
										<hr/> 195

Education.

19. There are five day schools supported by the Government, and one evening school, at a cost of 720*l.* per annum, and a grant of 50*l.* is made to the Benevolent Society in aid of their schools.

20. I attended the Christmas examination of all the schools. The number of children under instruction is—

	Boys.	Girls.
Government Schools	268	174
Benevolent Society ditto	154	102
Hussey School	59	42
Baptist ditto	99	134
Others	62	57
Total	<hr/> 642	<hr/> 509

21. The Government School buildings, with the exception of the girls' school, erected in 1869, I found in a very dilapidated and dirty condition. The whole have been cleansed and put in sound repair, in which state I trust to be enabled to maintain them.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

CHARLES GEORGE PATEY,
Rear-Admiral, Governor.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW
ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 13.

No. 13.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Registrar-General's Office, Sydney, October 1, 1871.
I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statistical Register for the year 1870, accompanied by the usual Report, which brings under notice some of the most important general results obtained from the returns published in detail in the Register.

PART I.

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, VITAL STATISTICS, &c.

Population.

The estimated population of the Colony on 31st December, 1869, was 485,356, to which must be added the excess of births over deaths for the year 1870, amounting to 13,090, and the number of arrivals over departures, 4,415. The total estimated population on 31st December, 1870, will be 502,861, which is an increase on the previous year of 17,505, or 3·60 per cent.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

By referring to Tables 3, 4, and 5, Part 1 of this Register, it will be seen that during the year 1870 there were 19,648 births recorded, 3,848 marriages celebrated, and 6,558 deaths registered.

Immigration.

No immigrants arrived during the year 1870 at the public expense. There is a return showing the number of immigrants who arrived in the Colony, commencing from the year 1861, distinguishing those brought out at the public expense from those who paid their own passages. Another return will be found showing the amount expended on immigration out of the public funds.

Lunatic and Invalid Institutions.

There were 652 patients in the Hospital for the Insane at Gladesville on 31st December, 1869, and 197 were admitted during the year 1870, making a total of 849 under care during the year. Out of this number there were 76 discharged, recovered; 9 discharged, relieved; 234 removed, not improved; 29 died, and 1 escaped; in all 349, leaving on 31st December last a total number of 500 patients in the institution.

The number of inmates in the Free Lunatic Asylum at Parramatta

on 31st December, 1869, was 490. During the year 1870 there were 273 admissions, making the total number of patients under care to amount to 763—of these 16 were discharged, recovered; 1 discharged, relieved; 4 removed, not improved; and 44 died. Thus there remained 698 inmates on the 31st December last, on which date there were also 21 invalids in this institution. The Convict Lunatic Asylum at Parramatta contained 58 inmates on 31st December, 1869, and no fresh cases were admitted during the past year, during which period 3 deaths occurred, leaving 55 patients on 31st December last; on this date there were also 2 invalids. The total cost of maintaining the Government lunatic asylums for the year 1870 was 30,417*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

Charitable Institutions.

The number of charitable institutions throughout the Colony in the year 1870 was as follows, viz.:—36 hospitals, 7 benevolent asylums, 11 orphan and other schools, 5 lunatic asylums, consisting of 4 Government institutions, including the lunatic receiving house at Darlinghurst, and 1 private asylum at Cook's River, also 5 other miscellaneous institutions. The number of admissions into these hospitals during the year 1870 was 3,797, and there were 3,299 patients discharged or removed during the same period. The deaths numbered 445. Two hospitals, those at Adelong and Kiandra, are reported as closed. The total receipts are as follows, viz. from Government, 16,004*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, from voluntary contributions, 11,273*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, making a total of 27,278*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* The disbursements amounted to 24,695*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The number admitted into the various benevolent asylums during the year 1870 was 1,811, out of which there were discharged or removed 1,493, and 256 deaths occurred. There were 1,202 inmates in these establishments on 31st December last, being an increase of 65 on the same date of the previous year. Three of these asylums, viz. at Hyde Park, Sydney, Parramatta, and Liverpool, being Government institutions, were wholly supported by public funds, at a cost of 11,245*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*

The receipts of the remaining four asylums were 5,947*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, that is to say, 3,953*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* from the Government, and 1,994*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from voluntary contributions. The disbursements for the year amounted to 6,758*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*

With regard to the orphan schools, &c., it is shown that the first four of these institutions which appear on the return, viz. Protestant Orphan School, Roman Catholic Orphan School, nautical schoolship 'Vernon,' and Industrial and Reformatory School for Girls at Newcastle, were entirely supported by the Government, at a cost of 13,900*l.* 13*s.*

The Asylum for Destitute Children at Randwick is maintained partly by public money and partly by voluntary contributions. The total receipts for the past year were 13,120*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, of which the Government contributed 8,874*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and the public, 4,245*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The disbursements of the year were 12,995*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* The number of children in this institution on 31st December last was 777. The

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Sydney Female School of Industry is supported by voluntary contributions, which amounted to 498*l.* 17*s.*, the disbursements being 637*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution is supported by Government aid and voluntary contributions—the former amounting to 450*l.*, the latter to 954*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, in all 1,404*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* The disbursements for the year were 1,384*l.* 9*s.* There were 40 inmates in this establishment on 31st December last.

There are three Ragged Schools in Sydney, which number 351 children on 31st December. These are entirely supported by voluntary contributions. The total receipts for the year were 601*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, and the disbursements 573*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

The remaining charitable institutions, under the head of “Miscellaneous,” are, the Home Institution, Sydney Female Refuge, House of The Good Shepherd, Sydney Sailor’s Home, and City Night Refuge and Soup Kitchen, and are wholly supported by voluntary contributions, which last year amounted to 3,925*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, the disbursements being 3,766*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

The grand total disbursements for charitable institutions (including lunatic asylums) for the year 1870 were 106,374*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* as against 120,530*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* for the year 1869.

Rates of Wages.

From a decennial return of the rate of wages, it will be seen that there was very little deviation from the rate which ruled in the previous year.

Provisions.

The price of some of the most important articles of consumption was rather less than in the year 1869, with the exception of meat, which appears to have been 1*d.* per lb. higher.

PART II.

RELIGION, EDUCATION, AND CRIME.

Under the head “Ecclesiastical” will be found a return of the number of registered ministers belonging to each denomination, with the amount received by each in the shape of salaries and allowances from the public purse and from the Church and School Estates Fund; also the number of churches and chapels, with their accommodation and average attendance, and the average attendance in public buildings or dwellings used for public worship.

The total number of registered ministers was 483, and of churches and chapels 907, the average attendance being 172,320. There is an increase of 7 in the number of registered ministers, and of 89 in the number of churches and chapels. The total amount received from the two sources above-mentioned was 25,829*l.* 18*s.*, being less by 1,612*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* than the previous year.

Sunday Schools.

A large increase is noticed in the number of Sunday schools. There were 805 in 1869, and 860 in 1870. The teachers number 5,674 as against 5,423 in the previous year. The average attendance of scholars in 1869 was 48,081, and 52,327 in 1870.

Day Schools.

The number of children in the Protestant and Roman Catholic orphan schools was 571, being a slight decrease on the preceding year.

The Asylum for Destitute Children shows a small increase, the numbers being 750 in 1869, and 764 in 1870. The voluntary contributions amounted to 4,245*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, being an increase of 418*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* on the year 1869.

Under the head of "Industrial Schools," the nautical ship 'Vernon' had 114 scholars, the industrial school for girls at Newcastle and the reformatory school at the same place 110 and 2 scholars respectively.

The total number of schools under the Council of Education was 846, in which there were 59,814 scholars and 1,200 teachers. The total amount paid out of the Colonial Treasury during the year 1870 was 111,282*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, which was supplemented by a sum of 39,583*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* from voluntary contributions, fees, and other sources, making a grand total of 150,866*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

These schools consisted of—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Scholars.
Public schools - -	358	568	28,592
Provisional schools - -	164	153	4,382
Half-time schools - -	82	30	1,253
	<u>604</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>34,227</u>
Denominational schools—			
Church of England -	115	215	12,297
Roman Catholic -	92	172	9,796
Presbyterian - -	19	36	1,883
Wesleyan - - -	15	24	1,474
Hobrew - - -	1	2	137
	<u>242</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>25,587</u>

The University of Sydney had an attendance of 41 students, being the same number as the year before. The receipts from fees, &c., were 938*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*; from the Government, 5,000*l.* In St. Paul's College there were 6 students, and the like number in St. John's College. The receipts of the former from fees and other sources amounted to 605*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, and of the latter to 138*l.*, both receiving 500*l.* from Government.

The number of students in the Sydney Grammar School has increased by 25. The receipts were 3,116*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* from fees, &c., and 1,500*l.* from the Government.

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There were 524 private schools in the Colony, giving instruction to 12,814 scholars, of which 5,837 were males and 6,977 females. The grand total amount expended on education (exclusive of private schools) was 191,589*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; the Government contributed 142,008*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and 49,581*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* was derived from fees and other sources. The total number of scholars in the Colony receiving instruction was 74,503.

Crime.

The number of commitments for trial in the Supreme and Circuit Courts during the year 1870 was 252, being a decrease of 25 on the previous year; the convictions for the same period being 147. The Quarter Sessions commitments for the year were 785, or 50 less than the previous year. The convictions in these Courts were 454. The total number of commitments was 1,037; the total number of convictions 601, or 1·217 per 1,000 of the estimated population at the middle of the year.

Under the head of summary jurisdiction it is shown that 11,345 persons were convicted and sentenced, and 1,037 were committed for trial, making a total of 12,382.

The convictions and committals are as follows:—

	Convicted.		Committed.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
For offences against the person	3,303	1,211	203	41	4,758
" " property -	1,155	277	723	70	2,225
Drunkenness - - - -	4,154	1,245	—	—	5,399
	<u>8,612</u>	<u>2,733</u>	<u>926</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>12,382</u>
	<u>11,345</u>		<u>1,037</u>		

The number of persons convicted of drunkenness exceeded that of the previous year by 1,254, or about 3 in every 1,000 of the estimated population.

PART III.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the year 1870 was 7,757,281*l.* As compared with the previous year they are as follows:—

	1869.	1870.
From United Kingdom - -	£3,544,285	£3,200,706
" British Colonies - -	3,919,092	3,724,292
" Foreign States - -	929,376	832,283
Total - - -	<u>£8,392,753</u>	<u>£7,757,281</u>

Thus there is a decrease of 635,472*l.* on the total value of imports.

The import trade from the Australian Colonies and New Zealand was as follows:—

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					£
Victoria	{	Seaward	-	-	705,387
		Overland	-	-	448,308
					<hr/>
					£1,153,695

South Australia	{	Seaward	-	-	£	270,798
		Overland	-	-		95,682
						<u>£366,480</u>

Tasmania	-	-	-	-	-	£	90,827
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-		298,951
Queensland	-	-	-	-	-		1,240,877
Western Australia	-	-	-	-	-		144

Exports.

The total value of exports was 7,990,038*l.*, which is a large decrease when compared with the previous year:—

	1869.	1870.
To United Kingdom	- - £3,267,019	£2,492,640
„ British Colonies	- - - 6,857,551	5,194,508
„ Foreign States	- - - 308,872	302,890
	<u>£9,938,442</u>	<u>£7,990,038</u>

Exports to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand were as follows:—

						£	
Victoria	{	Seaward	-	-	-	771,704	
		Overland	-	-	-	1,811,848	
						<u>£2,583,552</u>	

				£
South Australia	{	Seaward	-	24,822
		Overland	-	325,425
				<hr/>
				£350,247

Tasmania	-	-	-	-	-	£	26,555
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-		197,025
Queensland	-	-	-	-	-		639,761

Imports and Exports.

The excess of imports *seaward* was 1,360,526*l.*; the excess of exports *overland* was 1,593,283*l.* The total excess of exports over imports was 232,757*l.*

The amount per head of the imports was at the rate of 15*l.* 1*s.* 3½*d.*, and of exports 16*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per head of the population.

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PART IV.

MILLS AND MANUFACTURES.

The number of mills for grinding and dressing grain was 187, of which 155 were driven by steam, 16 by water, 8 by wind, and 8 by horse-power.

Manufactories, Works, &c.

The total number of these was 6,882 as against 4,497 in 1869, being an increase of 2,385.

Woollen Manufactories.

There were 6 establishments for the manufacture of cloth and tweeds, which turned out 187,470 yards. There is a decrease of 1 mill and 46,434 yards on the previous year.

Soap and Candles.

The number of establishments for the manufacture of soap and candles was 28. The quantity of soap manufactured was 64,192 cwt., and of candles 11,129 cwt., being a decrease of 9,031 cwt. of the former and 4,507 cwt. of the latter, as compared with the year 1869.

Tobacco.

The quantity of tobacco manufactured was 8,165 cwt. from 38 establishments. Here again is a falling off of 762 cwt. on the previous year.

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar manufactured during the year was 677 tons, the production of 27 mills. The returns show that 500 tons of this quantity was from the district of Grafton.

Tallow and Lard.

It appears that during the year 1870 there were 290,696 sheep slaughtered at the various boiling-down establishments, being 60,146 above the number for 1869. The number of horned cattle was only 74, and of pigs 1,042. The tallow produced was 87,708 cwt., of which the metropolitan district contributed 42,513 cwt., a large portion of which is obtained from the refuse in butchers' shops. The quantity of lard produced was 4,104 lbs.

PART V.

PRODUCTION.

The quantity of gold received at the Mint by escort from the various Gold-fields of the Colony during the year 1870, amounted to 198,664 ounces, valued 763,655*l.*, being a slight decrease on the

previous year. The quantity and value of gold received from each gold district is as follows:—

NEW SOUTH
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		Quantity.	Value.		
		oz.	£	s.	d.
Western District	- -	128,634·61	496,337	10	5
Southern	" - -	55,757·92	212,611	14	1
Northern	" - -	14,271·79	54,706	5	9
		<u>198,664·32</u>	<u>763,655</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

The average price of gold was, from the Western Gold-field, 3*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*; from the Southern, 3*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; and from the Northern, 3*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*

Miners' Licences.

The number of miners' licences issued during the year was 14,329, being an increase of 1,386 on the year 1869.

Coal-mines.

Of the 32 coal-mines 26 were in operation during the year, which produced 868,564 tons, of the value of 316,835*l.* This is a decrease on the year 1869 of 51,209 tons. The quantity of coal exported to Queensland, New Zealand, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, was 335,564 tons, of which Victoria took 180,552 tons, and New Zealand 87,979 tons. The export to other parts was 242,825, making a total of 578,389 tons.

Copper.

The quantity of copper ore raised was 358 tons, valued at 20,060*l.*

Kerosene.

The produce of kerosene shale was 8,580 tons, of the value of 27,570*l.*, being an increase on the preceding year in quantity and value of 1,080 tons and 8,820*l.*

Agriculture.

The occupiers of land (exclusive of those occupied in pastoral pursuits) numbered 31,538, of which 19,752 were freeholders and 11,786 leaseholders, being an increase on the total number of 3,818, as compared with the year 1869.

The extent of freeholds comprised 5,272,202 acres, or 61· per cent.; and of leaseholds 3,356,123 acres, or 39· per cent.,—in all 8,628,325 acres. The excess in area over the previous year is 770,856 acres.

The area of land in cultivation decreased from 482,324 acres in 1869 to 434,012 acres in 1870.

Enclosed lands not in cultivation show an acreage of 3,935,758 acres, being an increase of 242,545 acres, or 6· per cent. on the year 1869.

Unenclosed holdings have increased from 3,681,931 acres in 1869 to 4,258,555 acres in 1870, being an increase of over half a million of acres.

The following is a Table showing the number of acres in cultivation under each description of crop, and their production:—

NEW SOUTH
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TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ACRES IN CULTIVATION under each DESCRIPTION of Crop, and their PRODUCTION.

Crops.	1869.		1870.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.
Wheat	189,452	3,200,959 bush.	147,997	999,595 bush.	—	—	41,455	2,201,364 bush.
Maize	128,041	4,880,805 "	107,178	2,340,654 "	—	—	20,863	2,540,151 "
Barley	9,151	148,617 "	4,650	47,701 "	—	—	4,501	100,916 "
Oats	17,301	400,766 "	10,683	119,365 "	—	—	6,618	281,401 "
Cotton	—	—	2½	11 lbs.	2½	11 lbs.	—	—
Rye	2,378	37,434 bush.	1,295	11,691 bush.	—	—	1,083	25,743 bush.
Millet	184	1,806 "	359	4,747 "	—	—	—	—
Potatoes	17,132	54,200 tons.	13,927	34,118 tons.	—	—	3,205	20,082 tons.
Tobacco	366	3,192 cwt.	225	700 cwt.	—	—	141	2,492 cwt.
Arrowroot	31	34,046 lbs.	84	22,887 lbs.	53	—	—	11,149 lbs.
Sorghum, &c.	296	423 tons.	182	100 tons.	—	—	114	323 tons.
Sugar-cane	3,917	31,818 cwt.	4,082	13,567 cwt.	165	—	—	18,251 cwt.
Hay	75,094	131,985 tons.	65,408	69,601 tons.	—	—	9,681	62,384 tons.
Vines (Wine)	3,906	460,321 gals.	4,504	342,874 gals.	598	—	—	117,047 gals.
Gardens and orchards	14,516	—	17,168	—	2,652	—	—	—
Green fodder	17,375	—	43,991	—	26,616	—	—	—
All other	3,289	—	5,240	—	1,951	—	—	—

From this Table it will be seen that there was a very considerable diminution in all our principal agricultural products as compared with the previous year. This is accounted for from the fact that a great number of returns were received by me without any particulars, but merely with remarks to this effect,—*crops destroyed by floods.*

The value of importations of bread-stuffs for the year was 387,226*l.*, procured from the following sources:—

NEW SOUTH
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Victoria -	-	-	-	-	-	£
Tasmania -	-	-	-	-	-	54,744
South Australia -	-	-	-	-	-	22,014
South Sea Islands	-	-	-	-	-	200,355
New Zealand -	-	-	-	-	-	62
United States	-	-	-	-	-	44,610
China -	-	-	-	-	-	63,985
Chili -	-	-	-	-	-	12
						14,44
						887,226

This amount is less than the previous year by 48,096*l*.

The following Table shows the importations of wheat and flour, with estimated value and quantity, and rate per head of the population, for the last five years :—

Year.	Imports.				Colonial Produce.				Value of Imports and Colonial Produce per head of Population.				Exports.							
	Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Imports per head of Population.	Average Price per bushel in Sydney.	Wheat.	Value of Estimated Produce.	Value of Colonial Produce per head of Population.	Wheat.	Flour and Bread.	Estimated Value.	Value of Exports per head of Population.								
1866	431,412	29,832	854,381	19	6	723,459	13	63	13	1	71,890	152	23,691	1						
1867	447,020	16,455	402,279	0	5	358,452	16	0	13	11	78,480	112	23,580	1						
1868	466,765	20,242	546,979	1	6	580,802	1	4	10	2	8	117	6,981	0						
1869	485,356	16,301	433,322	0	6	960,287	1	19	6	2	17	5	31,499	92,365						
1870	502,861	19,395	387,226	0	5	999,595	15	3	262,393	0	10	5	10	22,914	5,163	75,880	3			
Average of 5 years	761,022	20,445	525,237	1	2	10	1,929,494	5	10	577,078	1	4	10	2	7	8	43,551	2,320	44,499	1

* Ranged from *ss.* to *ss. 3d.*; calculations made on *ss.*† Ranged from *ss.* to *ss. 6d.*; calculations made on *ss. 3d.*

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The quantity of maize exported during the year was 475,886 bushels, valued at 72,999*l*.

Liens on Growing Crops.

The number of liens on growing crops was 213, and the amount secured 10,045*l*.; though the number of these securities is in excess of the year 1869 by 62, the amount secured falls short by 3,627*l*.

Vineyards.

The number of acres under vine cultivation has increased from 3,906 in 1869 to 4,504 in 1870, or an excess of 598 acres.

The quantity of wine obtained was 342,674 gallons as against 460,321 gallons in the previous year. In addition to this quantity of wine there were 1,847 gallons of brandy. This was the production from 2,371 acres, while the yield of 533 acres was used for table purposes, and 1,599 acres were unproductive.

Live Stock.

The following statement will show the number of horses, horned cattle, sheep, and pigs, for the year ended 31st March, 1871, and the preceding year:—

Year ended 31 March, 1871.	Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1870 - - - - -	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,823	175,924
1871 - - - - -	337,597	2,195,096	16,308,583	213,066
Increase - - -	57,293	399,192	1,318,662	67,142

Mortgages on Live Stock.

There were 294 mortgages on live stock, on which the sum of 840,584*l*. was secured, the security consisting of 1,281,340 sheep, 147,119 horned cattle, and 3,884 horses. In the previous year the sum advanced was 354,819*l*. in excess of the amount above named. The discharges of mortgages on this kind of security numbered 95, and the amount discharged was 435,762*l*.

Liens on Wool.

The amount secured on liens on wool was 371,231*l*., for which sum the wool on 3,411,469 sheep was security. The amount secured for the year 1870 was less by 160,546*l*. than for the year 1869.

PART VI.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

The coin and bullion on 31st December, 1870, amounted to 1,447,912*l.*, being an increase of 55,668*l.* on the previous year.

Paper Currency in Circulation.

The paper in circulation was 742,490*l.* as against 787,312*l.* in 1869, being a decrease of 44,822*l.*

Branch Royal Mint.

The total value of gold dust or bullion received for coinage at the Mint during the year was 1,218,730*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, obtained from the following sources:—

	£	s.	d.
New South Wales - - -	552,743	16	8
Victoria - - - - -	181,055	16	9
New Zealand - - - -	218,754	16	3
Queensland - - - - -	391,719	14	2
Coin - - - - -	14,456	0	11
	<hr/>		
	£1,218,730	4	8

As compared with the previous year this shows a decrease of 104,757*l.* The total value of coin and bullion issued was 1,243,298*l.*

There was a decrease of coin issued to the amount of 59,000*l.*, and of bullion 17,090*l.* The revenue of the Mint was 11,559*l.*, which is a decrease of 3,729*l.* on the year 1869.

The total value of coin and bullion issued from the Mint since the 14th May, 1855 (the date on which it was opened) to 31st December, 1870, was 29,257,842*l.*

Railways.

The length of each of the railway lines, and number of passengers conveyed by them respectively, are shown by the following Table:—

Lines.	No. of Miles.	No. of Passengers.
South - - - - -	184	624,756
West - - - - -	98	178,026
Richmond - - - - -	16	36,300
North - - - - -	87	218,284
	<hr/>	
	335	1,057,366

The total weight of goods carried on the various lines was 766.523 tons. The amount received from the traffic on passengers, goods, and other sources, was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
From passengers - - - -	109,850	12	2
„ goods - - - - -	189,288	7	7
Rents and miscellaneous receipts -	8,003	4	1
	<hr/>		
	£307,142	3	10

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

After the deduction of working expenses, the net earnings amounted to 103,082*l.*, being an increase of 12,956*l.* on the year 1869.

Electric Telegraphs.

The number of miles traversed by the telegraph wire was 5,247, giving an addition of 194 miles on the year 1869.

The messages transmitted numbered 173,812, showing an increase of 28,442 on the previous year.

The total cost of construction has been 195,544*l.*

The revenue for the year, from 86 stations, amounted to 32,037*l.*, while the expenditure was 30,653*l.*

Post Offices.

There were 562 Post Offices at the close of the year 1870, being an increase of 41 on the previous year. The number of persons employed was 690, being an addition of 48. The total number of letters transmitted through the Post Offices was 7,083,500, of newspapers 3,814,700, and of packets 157,700.

The following Table affords a comparison of the two last years:—

Year.	Letters Posted for Delivery.			Total.
	Foreign.	Inland.	Town.	
1869	No. 1,067,251	No. 5,554,950	No. 521,433	No. 7,143,634
1870	1,103,200	5,451,500	528,800	7,083,500
Increase	35,949	—	7,367	—
Decrease	—	103,450	—	60,134

The number of newspapers conveyed by the post was 3,814,700, of which 1,206,600 were foreign, and 2,608,100 inland.

The increase in the number of foreign newspapers was 94,368, and of inland newspapers 126,779.

Packets, &c., show a decrease of 334.

The receipts were 84,440*l.*, and expenditure 86,751*l.*

Money Orders.

The number of offices for the issue of money orders has increased from 164 to 175.

The total number of orders issued was 65,743, of the value of 289,325*l.*

PART VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The amount of money expended on the public works of the Colony, during the year 1870 and that preceding it, will be seen by the following Table:—

Nature of Work.	1869.	1870.	Increase.	Decrease.
Railways—	£	£	£	£
Lines open for traffic -	150,417	121,939	—	28,478
Extensions not open -	456,666	384,558	—	72,108
Electric Telegraphs -	20,676	6,399	—	14,277
Roads and Bridges -	148,300	132,002	—	16,298
Harbours and Rivers -	76,731	63,593	—	13,138
Fitz-Roy Dry Dock -	4,548	2,082	—	2,466
Buildings, &c. -	95,186	67,939	—	27,247
Total -	952,524	778,512	—	174,012

Meteorology.

It appears that the number of days on which rain fell was 178, and that the total rainfall for the year was 64·215 inches. In the locality of the Kurrajong the quantity of rain which fell is recorded as 111·800 inches.

Insolvencies.

The number of insolvencies was 476, being less by 54 than the previous year.

The amount of liabilities was 671,870*l.*, being 188,725*l.* in excess of the year 1869. The assets are represented as 394,006*l.*, which shows a deficiency of 277,864*l.*

Publicans' Licences.

Licences issued to publicans during the year numbered 2,187, being 5 less than the previous year. The revenue derived from this source, including billiard and bagatelle licences, has increased from 65,687*l.* in 1869 to 66,095*l.* in 1870.

Volunteer Corps.

The full strength of the Volunteers on 31st December, 1870, including the Naval Brigade, was 3,436 as against 3,048 in the previous year. The cost of maintenance has increased from 10,417*l.* to 13,135*l.*

Political Franchise.

The number of registered electors on the rolls of the various electoral districts was 124,106.

NEW SOUTH
WALES.

The estimated number of electors on gold-fields who vote on production of their mining or business licences was 11,400, making a total of 135,506.

Land Sales.

The total area of land sold in the settled districts of the Colony, otherwise than conditionally, during the year 1870 was 23,750 acres, as against 40,905 in the year 1869, the decrease being 17,155 acres.

The number of acres purchased in the pastoral districts was 70,622, which is also a decrease of 53,353 acres on 1869; the general total being 94,372 acres.

There were 4,471 selections made of land sold conditionally, comprising an area of 329,318 acres. Here also is a decrease on the previous year of 68,010 acres.

The total amount received during the year for the sale of land, including conditional purchases and interest thereon, was 250,842*l*.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. G. WARD,
Registrar-General.

OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Mar- riages.	Deaths.	Schools.		Commis- sioners for Tribal.	Coun- ty.	Mills.	Man- sions.	Number of Acres under Crop.	Live Stock.			Coal mined.		Land Sales.		
					Schools.	Number of Boys.						Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Amount realized.
1861.	268,278	14,061	3,232	5,343	849	37,874	820	437	184	788	297,575	233,220	2,371,923	5,615,054	146,091	342,067	218,320	188,936	222,594
1862	367,405	15,431	3,236	6,324	925	42,211	879	514	181	849	392,138	273,389	2,620,383	6,145,651	125,511	476,528	305,224	87,292	216,988
1863	378,684	15,079	3,314	6,063	976	46,810	887	497	180	1,768	397,035	262,554	2,032,522	7,790,969	135,893	433,889	236,220	92,016	192,113
1864	392,669	16,021	3,490	6,445	1,022	48,427	975	590	174	2,084	318,954	284,567	1,924,119	8,271,520	164,154	549,013	270,171	84,216	112,719
1865	411,368	17,233	3,576	6,596	1,069	53,453	1,123	686	175	2,132	378,354	282,587	1,961,905	8,132,511	146,901	585,526	274,303	101,360	213,241
1866	421,412	16,940	3,462	7,381	1,155	58,594	1,255	770	159	2,389	451,228	278,437	1,771,809	11,562,155	137,915	774,258	324,049	109,177	261,590
1867	447,400	18,217	3,236	8,631	1,180	63,183	1,380	702	188	2,274	413,104	280,201	1,726,427	13,909,574	173,168	770,012	312,655	119,044	251,660
1868	466,965	19,485	2,736	7,925	1,254	66,835	1,506	601	181	3,582	434,756	280,818	1,761,411	15,080,625	176,901	954,257	477,809	149,945	265,250
1869	495,356	19,248	2,799	6,601	1,304	71,523	1,112	689	183	4,497	452,334	280,304	1,795,904	14,989,923	175,924	919,774	546,146	161,890	319,013
1870	502,961	19,446	2,848	6,568	1,351	74,503	1,037	601	187	5,982	434,576	337,597	2,195,096	16,202,585	213,068	868,564	316,536	84,373	250,843

Year.	Shipping.				Exports, the Produce of the Colony.				Imports.				Revenue.				Expenditure.			
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Wool.	Tallow.	Oil-seed.	Cash.	Gold.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.	General.	Loans.	Ordinary.	Loans.
1861.	1,327	306,236	1,391	379,460	12,745,991	60,638	60,316	207,780	180,905	2,715,037	207,780	180,905	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	5,694,839	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1862	1,498	454,637	1,568	467,358	13,482,139	71,251	144,030	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	7,102,058	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1863	1,494	479,827	1,603	511,373	14,791,349	71,709	144,030	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	8,336,815	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1864	1,849	607,168	1,842	617,067	16,827,917	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	9,336,815	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1865	1,913	635,688	2,120	680,294	17,858,791	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	10,135,708	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1866	2,099	730,354	2,239	784,351	18,850,685	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	11,035,708	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1867	1,866	646,970	2,104	726,721	17,708,502	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	12,035,708	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1868	2,073	724,183	2,218	776,442	18,850,685	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	13,035,708	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1869	2,073	741,369	2,218	776,442	18,850,685	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	14,035,708	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095
1870	1,856	609,820	2,066	771,943	17,708,502	81,066	160,654	207,780	245,422	2,715,037	207,780	245,422	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095	433,224	15,035,708	1,445,610	394,457	1,540,095

* The Census was taken on 7th April, 1861, population 560,560.
 † Lands conditionally sold under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861." Price of Land in 1865, 7s. 6d. to 10s. per acre. The minimum price of Land was 5s. per acre from 1832 to 1840; 12s. per acre, 1840-2. (20s. in Port Phillip, in 1841.) 20s. per acre from 1848 to pre-
 sent time. In 1822, 3, 4, 5, the accounts were kept in Spanish dollars and British money;
 generally in Spanish dollars. Transportation ceased in 1840. The Return of the Revenue
 and Expenditure previous to 1860 cannot be accurately ascertained. In addition to the
 above expenditure, the Imperial Government paid large sums for the maintenance of
 convicts and military. Gold discovered in May, 1861. The Loans Expenditure previous
 to 1863 cannot be shown.
 ‡ Exclusive of the overland traffic.
 § Includes the gold received at the Mint from other Colonies, and converted into bars and coin.
 ¶ Includes 270,543s. proceeds of Treasury Billa, issued under the Act of Council 27th Vic.,
 No. 8, to cover deficit of 1863 and previous years.
 ** The Revenue and Expenditure columns in the "Church and School Lands Revenue," "Police
 Reward Fund," "Police Superannuation Fund," and "Superannuation Fund," 27th Vic., No. 11.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

QUEENSLAND.

No. 14.

(No Report received.)

A Statistical View of Queensland, since its separation from New South Wales, is printed in place of the Report.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

VICTORIA.

No. 15.

(No Report received.)

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

TASMANIA.

No. 16.

Legislative Council Office, Hobart Town,

SIR,

August, 1871.

I have the honour to forward to you, together with this Report, the statistics of this Colony for the year 1870.

In previous years I have experienced great difficulty in obtaining the materials required for the compilation of the annual volume. Last year I mentioned one Government officer who had been specially negligent in this respect.

I am sorry to record that this year the same officer has failed, after repeated applications, to furnish me with the necessary returns (namely, those for the gaols, &c., Launceston), and I have thus been compelled to omit them.

The officer thus referred to has since retired from the public service.

It is pleasing to be able, on the other hand, to report that a great improvement has taken place in the rendering of accounts of the road trusts and municipalities. They have been more correct, and have generally been sent in more promptly than in any former year. I have also been gratified to observe, on several occasions, indications of a greater readiness to supply information,—a proof of the increased importance which is now attached to the official statistics of this Colony.

A change having lately been made in the municipal officers at Sorell, it was found that proper records had not been kept in that district of certain particulars required for the purposes of these statistics; and the returns relating to municipalities, cases dealt with by magistrates, and litigation, are therefore incomplete in as far as relates to the municipality of Sorell.

AND.

HER MAJESTY'S COL

SEPARATION FROM NEW

LAND UNDER CROP.				COAL.		Year.
Total No. of Acres under Cultivation.	Under Cotton.	Under Sugar-cane.	Hort.	Quantity Raised.	Value.	
No.	acres.	acres.	No.	tons.	£	
3,353	14	—	23,	12,327	9,244	1860
4,440	395	—	28,	14,212	9,920	1861
6,067	392	—	36,	24,067	19,253	1862
11,262	2,021	—	45,	2,400	1,500	1863
12,006	479	93	40,	25,000	15,000	1864
14,414	477	449	51,	30,000	18,750	1865
24,433	2,884	607	52,	39,316	21,049	1866
31,559	8,149	1,995	53,	17,988	9,566	1867
39,321	11,453	3,396	66,	19,611	11,519	1868
47,034	14,426	5,165	71,	11,120	5,907	1869
52,210	14,674	6,341	83,	22,639	12,311	1870

E.

WARD) THE PRODUCE OF QUEENSLAND.				ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.		Year.
OPPER.	COTTON.		LI	Miles of Wire.	No. of Messages.	
Value.	Quantity.	Value.	f No. ers.			
£	lbs.	£	No.	No.	No.	
50	—	—	—	—	—	1860
644	—	4	3,10	169	5,678	1861
10,332	14,344	1,423	1,32	169	16,833	1862
296	31,557	3,056	65	221	19,219	1863
146	38,730	4,186	27	298	27,246	1864
18,440	145,820	12,197	2,12	1,131	47,697	1865
33,918	207,272	19,618	9,137	1,565	64,372	1866
66,038	412,941	26,631	461,639	1,752	63,412	1867
77,136	1,809,628	68,929	492	1,811	67,111	1868
87,268	1,118,899	51,217	2,175	2,182	70,112	1869
63,298	1,630,755	73,437	1,753	2,221	81,483	1870

ANKS.

Balance to credit on 31st December.

Revenue.	Expenditure.	Principal townships, with according to the Census of	
£	£	£	
7,545	178,589	161,503	14,265
12,192	238,238	255,180	5,226
20,562	295,286	317,026	5,021
26,789	295,215	355,791	2,929
30,662	369,425	439,034	2,900
56,516	472,451	459,025	1,723
86,499	490,269	594,130	1,224
23,158	610,860	661,795	1,144
20,662	724,854	742,207	821
00,522	738,218	761,594	807
32,843	743,058	764,491	746

5,000 tons ore, producing 1,000 tons smelted copper refined during the year.

HENRY SCOTT,
Registrar-General.

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Before proceeding with my remarks on the different returns contained in this volume, I desire very briefly to allude to the Despatch (No. 30, of March 24, 1870) of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies—a copy of which you did me the honour to forward to me—referring, in very gratifying terms, to the manner in which my duty as Government Statistician of this Colony has been discharged. Such an acknowledgment on the part of Her Majesty's Government of my services in that capacity is valuable, not only as a recognition of past labours, but as an encouragement for the future in the prosecution of a tedious and toilsome work, extending over about seven and a half or eight months out of every year, which has been performed for the past five years as an addition to other official duties, without any increase of emolument.

I.—Population.

The last census was taken on the 7th February, 1870. Adding to the numbers on that date the increase by excess of births over deaths up to the 31st December, and deducting the decrease by excess of emigration over immigration, the estimated population on December 31, 1870, is found to have been—males, 53,464; females, 47,301; total, 100,765. Population.

The number of persons who arrived in the Colony during the year 1870 was 5,982, and the number of those who departed from it, 5,888; giving an addition to the population of 94 from this source. In 1869 there was, in this way, a decrease of population of 638; in 1868, an increase of 723; in 1867, a decrease of 466; and in 1866, an increase of 690; so that in the last five years there has been an alternate increase and decrease. Immigration and emigration.

The number of immigrants introduced into the Colony under the auspices of the Board of Immigration in 1870 was 342, of whom 301 were from Germany, 21 from England, 18 from Ireland, and 2 from Scotland.

II.—Trade, Commerce, and Navigation.

The imports in 1870 are stated to have been of the value of 792,916*l.*, being at the rate of 7*l.* 17*s.* 4½*d.* per head of the estimated population at the end of the year, against a total in 1869 of 975,412*l.*, and a rate per head of 9*l.* 12*s.* 0½*d.* Imports.

They were therefore less in value by the sum of 182,496*l.* than in the preceding year; the decrease being at the rate of 18·71 per cent.

It may be well to compare the imports for the last five years. They were as follows:—

Years.	Total Value.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—).
1866 - - -	882,107	+ 119,732
1867 - - -	856,348	- 25,759
1868 - - -	845,152	- 11,196
1869 - - -	975,412	+ 130,260
1870 - - -	792,916	- 182,496

TASMANIA.

It appears that with the exception of 1866 and 1869 (the amount in the latter year being quite unusual), there has been a continuous decrease during the whole period.

The import trade with the different countries in the last *four* years (there being no means of ascertaining the distribution before 1867) was—

Countries.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom - - -	299,892	265,396	408,188	282,342
Victoria - - - - -	432,347	458,073	459,555	396,330
New South Wales - - -	49,715	46,069	84,764	38,998
Queensland - - - - -	—	135	3,765	6,690
South Australia - - -	8,875	6,225	8,640	2,150
New Zealand - - - - -	5,058	2,820	2,115	7,395
Mauritius - - - - -	51,051	59,367	47,585	57,106
Calcutta - - - - -	—	455	—	—
Valparaiso - - - - -	—	2,760	—	—
Cape of Good Hope - - -	—	—	480	—
China - - - - -	6,410	8,608	4,820	—
Hamburg - - - - -	—	—	—	230
South Seas - - - - -	—	220	5,560	1,425
Total - - - - -	856,848	845,152	975,412	792,916

The decrease, it will be observed, is principally in the trade with Victoria; that with the United Kingdom having been greater than in 1868, and not very much less than in 1867. With Queensland and New Zealand (from Mauritius the only goods imported are sugar and gunny bags) the trade increased; with New South Wales (although larger than in 1869) and South Australia it decreased. With China we had no transactions in imported goods in 1870, the whole of our supply of teas having been received indirectly, the great bulk through Victoria.

The figures in the above Table, reduced to their centesimal proportions, give the following results :—

Countries.	Proportion per cent. of total Imports.			
	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom - - -	85.02	31.40	41.85	35.61
Victoria - - - - -	50.49	54.20	47.11	49.98
New South Wales - - -	5.80	5.45	3.57	4.92
Queensland - - - - -	—	0.74	0.38	0.87
South Australia - - -	1.04*	0.02	0.88	0.27
New Zealand - - - - -	0.59	0.33	0.22	0.93
Mauritius - - - - -	6.31	7.02	4.88	7.20
Calcutta - - - - -	—	0.05	—	—
Valparaiso - - - - -	—	0.33	—	—
Cape of Good Hope - - -	—	—	0.05	—
China - - - - -	0.75	0.43	0.49	—
Hamburg - - - - -	—	—	—	0.04
South Seas - - - - -	—	0.03	0.57	0.18

* In the previous year's report (1869) this percentage appears opposite Queensland, having by inadvertence been placed on the wrong line.

The proportions, in 1870, as between the United Kingdom and Victoria, stood very nearly as they were in 1867. As regards Queensland, New Zealand, and Mauritius, the ratio in 1870 is the

greatest in the period; but as regards New South Wales and South Australia, it is lower than the prevailing rate.

At the respective ports of Hobart Town and Launceston the imports were in the last five years:—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Hobart Town -	£ 469,255	£ 495,030	£ 489,540	£ 443,735	£ 401,755
Launceston -	412,852	361,818	405,612	531,677	388,161

The imports at Launceston in 1869 were swelled to an unusual amount by the items—railway plant, 88,045*l.*; specie, gold and silver, 36,000*l.* These being excluded, the value of the ordinary imports in 1869 would still be greater by 19,471*l.* than in 1870. The value in 1870 was less than in any year (with the exception of 1867) of the period. At Hobart Town the imports in 1870 were, without any exception, the least in value of any year in the whole period.

Turning now to the exports, we find that their value in 1870 is stated to have been 648,709*l.*, of which 625,505*l.*, or 96·42 per cent. were the produce of the Colony, and 23,204*l.*, or 3·58 per cent. the produce of other countries. On the total value in 1870 there was a decrease, as compared with that in the preceding year, of 178,223*l.*, or 21·55 per cent. Exports.

The exports in 1870 were at the rate of 6*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* per head, against 8*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.* in 1869, and 9*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* in 1868.

For the last five years the exports were:—

Years.	Total Value.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).
1866 - - -	£ 834,606	- 46,350
1867 - - -	790,494	- 44,112
1868 - - -	920,820	+ 130,326
1869 - - -	826,932	- 93,888
1870 - - -	648,709	- 178,223

Except in the one year 1868, there has been a continuous decrease as compared with 1866—that in 1870 being the largest in the period.

The export trade with the different countries in the same four* years was as follows:—

Countries.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom - - -	£ 878,532	£ 485,523	£ 831,748	£ 253,200
Victoria - - - - -	223,879	277,797	344,523	267,382
New South Wales - - -	70,157	111,631	82,426	83,542
Queensland - - - - -	14,076	23,001	8,788	9,281
South Australia - - -	26,260	16,094	16,744	8,119
New Zealand - - - - -	74,057	50,764	41,272	25,780
Mauritius - - - - -	2,533	5,630	821	1,370
Guam - - - - -	—	380	610	85
Total - - - - -	790,494	920,820	826,932	648,709

* Four years are taken instead of five, for the reason assigned when treating of the imports.

TASMANIA.

There was a decrease, it will be seen, in our exports to all countries except New South Wales and Mauritius, although, as regards Victoria and New South Wales, the value was greater in the last than in the first year. I do not exclude Queensland from the former category, because 1869 being the only year in which the amount was smaller than in 1870, and the difference in favour of the latter year being very slight, it cannot be inferred that there is yet any real improvement.

In centesimal proportions, the distribution of the exports in the last four years was—

Countries.	Proportion per cent. of total Exports.			
	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
United Kingdom - - -	47·89	47·30	40·12	39·03
Victoria - - - - -	28·32	30·17	41·66	41·22
New South Wales - - -	8·88	12·12	9·97	12·88
Queensland - - - - -	1·78	2·50	1·06	1·43
South Australia - - -	3·32	1·75	2·02	1·25
New Zealand - - - - -	9·49	5·51	5·00	3·97
Mauritius - - - - -	0·32	0·61	0·10	0·21
Guam - - - - -	—	0·04	0·07	0·01

Comparing the export trade at the two ports for the five years, we have—

	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.
	£	£	£	£	£
Hobart Town -	460,735	465,990	418,810	406,960	346,504
Launceston -	373,871	324,504	502,010	419,972	302,205

The decrease in 1870, as compared with 1869, was, at Hobart Town, 14·85 per cent.; at Launceston, 28·04 per cent.

On referring to the decennial Table of Exports which follows the Customs returns, it will be seen that the only articles on which there was an increase in value in 1870 were oats, barley, hides, skins and leather, and hops. On bark the decrease was 1,294*l.*; on bran and pollard, 1,756*l.*; on butter and cheese, 6,579*l.*; on flour, 16,327*l.*; on fruit, preserved and green, 14,020*l.*; on wheat, 29,826*l.*; on horses, 2,853*l.*; on sheep, 1,550*l.*; on sperm oil, 27,940*l.*; on timber, 5,350*l.*; on vegetables, 27,207*l.*; on wool, 56,807*l.* These decreases were not caused by any fall in the prices of goods (except as regards bark, in which there was an increase in quantity of 459 tons, and perhaps timber), for the quantities show a corresponding diminution. In wool, our staple production, there was a decrease in quantity of 1,460,170 lbs. as against 1869. The export of wool was smaller than in any year of the last decennium, with the exception of 1861.

The trade in butter and cheese seems to be declining. There was no year in the decade in which it was so small as in 1870. In 1861 the value was 10,739*l.* It reached 26,570*l.* in 1865; and from that time it has receded.

The quantity of flour exported has never been so small in any of the ten years, except in 1865, when, however, the increased price made the total value greater than in 1870.

The trade in fruit and jam was, apparently, somewhat smaller than the average of the last four years, but considerably in advance of what it was at the beginning of the decade.

There were only three years—namely, 1864, 1865, and 1866—in which the export of wheat was smaller than in 1870. That of oats in the latter year was a good average; and that of barley was the largest of any of the ten years, except 1868. The leather and skin trade, judged by the value, is in a flourishing condition—1870 showing the maximum in the ten years. The production of hops is steadily advancing, the export in 1861 having been only 43,646 lbs., and in 1870, 365,489 lbs.; but it is feared that in consequence of the low price which has prevailed for some time past, and the duty imposed by some of the other colonies, this increase will not continue.

The export of horses and sheep has been constantly declining, and threatens to cease to be an item of any importance. That of pigs shows a better result; the number in 1861 having been only 251, and 1870, 3,632, valued at 5,067*l*.

The export of sperm oil was exceeded in 1869, 1868, 1864, 1862, and 1861. Whale fishing, as an industry, cannot, therefore, be said to be in a satisfactory condition.

The value of timber exported in 1870 was less than in any of the other years of the period; but it is probable (seeing that on some descriptions there was an increase) that a reduction in price has had some share in producing that result, although this does not appear in the return of prices.

The export of wool in 1870 shows a decrease of 1,076,871 lbs. upon the average of the five preceding years, 1865–9, which is 5,223,784. The decrease was therefore at the rate of 20·57 per cent. The cause is generally attributed to fluke, and the enormous increase of rabbits on the sheep-runs.

The following Table shows the exports for the last three years of certain articles which, not being of sufficient importance, or else not having established a permanent place in the trade, were not included in the decennial return:—

	Quantities.			Value.		
	1868.	1869.	1870.	1868.	1869.	1870.
Coals - - - - - tons	180	1,270	1,614	£ 120	£ 810	£ 980
Gold - - - - - oz.	—	—	2,141	—	—	7,475
Hay - - - - - tons	354½	152	129½	1,620	870	1,025
Malt - - - - - bushels	5,960	8,283	11,160	2,670	3,235	4,185
Malt liquor - - - - - galls.	9,170*	9,870	8,163	1,095	1,180	957
Oysters and crayfish - - - pkgs.	273	275	309	600	1,190	1,010
Seeds, plants, and trees ditto	2,178	1,375	1,205	3,560	2,195	2,095
Stone, building - - - tons	2,186	2,642½	1,423	4,400	4,980	2,545

* Also 200 dozen pints, value 30*l*.

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In the official Report of the Intercolonial Exhibition held at Sydney in 1870 there are some observations which bear upon our export trade, and it may therefore be useful to reproduce them here for the benefit of our producers and exporters.

“Wheat.” The wheat most esteemed is that from Adelaide. Nothing produced in this Colony quite comes up to it in quality, but then there is a compensation in quantity, inasmuch as the average yield is greater here than in South Australia. Our best wheat districts are in the neighbourhood of Young, Barrowa, Murrumburrah, Bathurst, Carcoar, Cowra, Wagga Wagga, Orange, New England, and Maneroo. Taking as a standard Adelaide wheat at 5s. a bushel, that grown in these localities will realize in Sydney about 2d. less. Next in excellence is reckoned the grain from the districts of Mudgee, Yass, Queenbeyan, Gunning, Braidwood, and Goulburn, which generally averages about 4d. a bushel below the Adelaide wheat. Victorian is classed as about equal in quality with the best of New South Wales wheat, and Californian a shade below it. Taking the same standard of value, Tasmanian wheat realizes about 4s. 6d., and that from New Zealand, which however is very unequal in quality, ranges from about 4s. to 4s. 3d.”

“Barley.” The Colony furnished only one exhibitor of this grain, which perhaps was not an unfair indication of its comparative neglect by our farmers. * * * * It has been frequently grown on the Hunter River, but is very apt to get the weevil within two or three months; and as maltsters like to have it kept for at least that time, it is scarcely available for their use. Some few years ago Messrs. Tooth and Co., the principal brewers of Sydney, offered a special prize for barley the produce of the Colony, in the hope that it would stimulate the local production of an article they largely import; but though the prize was gained by an excellent sample grown at Bega, no stimulus was given to the general cultivation. * * * * It is only on the south-east corner of the Colony, where there is a moist, cool sea-breeze, that malting barley can be advantageously grown on the coast, but on the cool table lands it can be produced of excellent quality, and the probability is that the railways will now lead to a considerable increase in cultivation. At present, the Sydney brewers, unable to get their wants supplied by local growers, import barley and malt from Tasmania and New Zealand. From these Colonies they are drawing a continually increasing supply, and are gradually limiting their orders from England. The import of barley in 1869 was 8,587 bushels.”

“Potatoes.” * * * * The import for the year amounted to 9,775 tons, of which about 1,300 tons were re-exported to Queensland. * * * * The northern rivers are found to be rather too hot for the successful cultivation of this root. Even to the south the warm spring weather is not very favourable. In a cool season the potatoes produced there are excellent, but when the hot weather sets in rapidly the quality is injured. Though the coast climate is not very favourable for the production of the best article, except in good seasons, it gives the sea-side settlers the advantage of the first of the season. From about November to February they have the Sydney market all

to themselves. By that time the Victorian potatoes from Warrnambool come in, and as they are more highly esteemed they take the lead, and the remaining unsold stock of New South Wales potatoes can only be placed at a reduction of 10s. to 20s. per ton. The Victorian potatoes in turn are rivalled by the potatoes from the north coast of Tasmania, which come into the market a few months subsequently."

"*Malt Liquors.* * * * * In the art of brewing Sydney is placed at some disadvantage. There are only three or four months in the year in which the weather is cool enough to allow the malting process to be carried out satisfactorily, and from the small quantity of barley produced in the Colony nearly all the grain has to be imported. The hot weather is also a difficulty to be encountered, and the very best XXX is only manufactured during the winter months, though by the aid of artificial refrigerators, to regulate the temperature of the fermenting tuns, sound beer can be produced all the year round. The Sydney water, too, is very pure, and rather too free from lime for brewing purposes. That drawn from Botany is simply rain-water filtered through sand, and that drawn from wells sunk in the sandstone rock on which the city is built is naturally filtered. The popularity in Sydney of the ale brewed at Castlemaine, in Victoria, has induced the manufacturers to open a branch establishment in this Colony, but though the processes are identical, they fail in the Sydney climate, and with the Sydney water, to produce an article identical with the Victorian beer. * * * * The import of beer in 1869 was more than 1,000,000 gallons in wood, and more than 500,000 in bottles, and the total value was about 260,000£."

Surely in the production of malt liquors, if anywhere, is an opportunity for Tasmania to extend her trade. She has, confessedly, advantages in this respect possessed by none other of the Australian colonies; and if beer can be sent from Castlemaine, an inland town, to Sydney at a profit, much more could it be supplied from the ports of Tasmania.

A part of the concluding remarks of the same Report are worth quoting, since they apply quite as much to this Colony as they do to New South Wales, and perhaps more.

"A survey of the industries of the Colonies cannot but disclose the fact that in most of them, especially in the agricultural and pastoral departments, there is room for very great improvement. That the methods hitherto adopted have been rough and ready, such as have been natural to the early stages of colonial development, but such as are not adapted to produce the best and fullest results of which the Colony is capable. The soil can produce more, and can produce better, and can produce in greater variety, than it has ever been made to do; and a more intelligent application of scientific knowledge, and a more careful collection and distribution of the information still to be obtained from further experience, will, even with our present resources of labour and capital, add immensely to the productiveness of the soil. The exhibitions of the Agricultural Society, which are adapting themselves yearly more exactly to the wants of the community, cannot fail

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greatly to assist this progress. They reveal all the defects in our present methods, and give prominence to all improvements. They encourage those who take the lead, and they stimulate into activity those who drag in the rear.

"With respect to manufactures, we note that there have been some satisfactory successes, and some disappointing failures; that the latter have been partly due to the want of capital, or to the want of skill—and more the latter than the former."

It would be well if the following words were equally applicable:—

"The lesson has now been learnt that favourable local conditions are not sufficient, unless the requisite technical knowledge is also supplied; and in new industries for the future more care will be taken to secure the best available practised skill, so that the local advantages may be utilized to the utmost, and the early difficulties of a new enterprise may not be aggravated, and by blunders that might be avoided."

Total trade.

The total value of our sea-borne trade in 1870 amounted to 1,441,625*l*. The average for the preceding four years was 1,732,968*l*.; so that there was a decrease to the extent of 291,343*l*., equal to 16·81 per cent.

Customs Union.

There are many causes which have contributed to this serious declension in our trade, but at present I need only mention one, seeing that that affects not only this Colony, but the whole group of British communities in this quarter of the world—I allude to the destructive "War of Tariffs" which Colony has been waging against Colony, sometimes by way of protection, at others by way of reprisal. Whatever the motive may be, the end is the same: the weapon, even if it hurts the foe, is sure to spring back and wound most the hand that wields it. The only complete remedy for this unnatural and pernicious state of things is to be found in the establishment of a Customs Union, which, so far as their trade and commerce are concerned, would have the same effect as if all the colonies were brought under one Government. To Tasmania the matter is one of vital importance. The larger, wealthier, and more populous colonies may, perhaps, be able for a time to set the laws of nature and the teachings of experience at defiance; but to a small community like this, whose resources are limited, and whose most useful population has gone to increase the wealth of her more powerful neighbours, such a war means little less than the extinction of her commerce. But a Customs Union, while it would unquestionably benefit the smaller Colony in an especial degree, would also largely conduce to the prosperity of the others; and viewing the question in its widest aspect, as affecting the whole of these branches of the great English-speaking family, I can only express my earnest desire that a Customs Union, comprehending all the members of the Australasian group of colonies, may at no distant time be established.

Shipping.

Having, in the previous remarks, carried back the comparison of the imports and exports for five years, I shall pursue the same course with respect to the Shipping Returns:—

INWARDS.

Ports.	1866.		1867.		1868.		1869.		1870.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town -	227	54,568	222	49,085	223	52,201	218	51,168	218	51,866
Launceston and sub-ports -)	416	53,335	376	48,305	431	58,352	434	63,242	395	53,781
Total - -	643	107,903	598	97,390	654	110,553	652	114,410	613	105,647

OUTWARDS.

Ports.	1866.		1867.		1868.		1869.		1870.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Hobart Town -	236	55,104	231	50,742	226	51,617	220	50,579	233	53,679
Launceston and sub-ports -)	396	50,961	400	52,012	433	59,874	444	61,986	378	53,584
Total - -	632	106,065	631	102,754	659	111,491	664	112,565	611	107,263

These Tables show a considerable falling off both in the number of vessels, and the tonnage in 1870, as compared with 1868 and 1869. The true state of the shipping trade may be better exhibited by adding together the totals of both Tables.

Years.	Inwards and Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.
1866 - - -	1,275	213,968
1867 - - -	1,229	200,144
1868 - - -	1,313	222,044
1869 - - -	1,316	226,975
1870 - - -	1,224	212,910

It will be seen that while the *tonnage* is very nearly the same as in 1866, and considerably in excess of that in 1867, though less than in the other years, the *number* of vessels is less than in any of the other years.

The amount of registered shipping belonging to the Colony on 31st December, 1870, shows a total of 183 vessels, having a capacity of 16,913 tons, and manned by 1,427 men and boys; being a decrease, as compared with 1869, of two vessels, of 347 tons, and of 27 men and boys. Shipping registered.

The number of registered steamers continued the same as in the previous year, the only change being the substitution at Launceston of one wooden for one iron vessel. Steamers registered.

The whale fisheries in 1870 employed 15 vessels with a tonnage of 3,446; the number of their crews being 376. The produce was—black oil 1 tun, and sperm oil 448 tuns, together valued at 35,880*l*. Compared with those for 1869 these figures show the following decreases:—vessels, 2; tonnage, 918; crews, 39; black oil, 12 tuns; Whale fisheries.

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sperm, 195 tons (30·33 per cent.); whalebone, 8 cwt.; value of produce 13,030*l*.

Coal.

The quantity of coal raised in 1870 was returned as 9,786 tons against 10,256 in 1869, being smaller by 470 tons, or 4·58 per cent.

Prices.

The prices of agricultural produce were generally lower in 1870 than in the previous year. Flour, from a range of 13*l*. to 16*l*. per ton, fell to 11*l*. 10*s*. to 13*l*., and bread in consequence became cheaper by $\frac{1}{4}$ *d*. the 2 lb. loaf. Wheat in 1869 stood at 5*s*. to 7*s*. per bushel; in 1870, at 4*s*. 10*d*. to 5*s*. 2*d*.; barley in 1869 at 5*s*. to 6*s*.; in 1870, at 3*s*. 6*d*. to 5*s*.; oats in 1869 at 3*s*. 6*d*. to 4*s*. 6*d*.; in 1870, at 2*s*. 9*d*. to 3*s*. 8*d*.; maize rose in 1870 by 1*s*. per bushel. Hay fell from a range of 5*l*. 10*s*. to 6*l*. per ton in 1869 to 2*l*. 15*s*. to 3*l*. in 1870. Butchers' meat showed the following variations:—beef per lb. in 1869, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d*. to 8*d*.; in 1870, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d*. to 8*d*.; pork in 1869, 6*d*. to 1*s*.; in 1870, 6*d*. to 8*d*. Veal in 1869, 8*d*. to 1*s*.; in 1870, 6*d*. to 1*s*. Timber maintained about the same price as in the previous year. Under the head of vegetables, the only noticeable variation is in the price of potatoes, which was 4*l*. 10*s*. to 6*l*. per ton in 1869; in 1870, 2*l*. 15*s*. to 3*l*. 15*s*.

The past year must therefore have been a trying one for the agriculturist. The price of wool, however, which, according to the Customs returns advanced from 1*s*. 1*d*. in 1869 to 1*s*. 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d*. in 1870, tended in some degree to relieve the depression.

Wages.

The rate of wages seems generally to have been lower than in 1869, as might be expected, seeing that the necessaries of life were cheaper, while the demand for labour was certainly not increased.

Trades, &c.

The next return, relating to trades and manufactures, requires a few words of explanation, in order that a casual comparison of it with the corresponding return for the previous year may not mislead. The stock of forms having been exhausted, rendering it necessary to get a new supply printed, advantage was taken of the opportunity to make a few amendments. With this view, after examining the list of trades compiled in connection with the late Census, the following were added:—brickmakers, cheesemakers, market-gardeners, hawkers, jam manufactories, millwrights, plasterers, saddle and harness makers; while the following, being so few in number as to be of little interest, were omitted:—glue and size makers, gold-beaters, mast and block makers, starch manufactories, vinegar manufactories.

On comparing the returns for 1869 and 1870 respectively, we find these increases in the latter year:—agricultural implement makers, 5; blacksmiths, 9; bricklayers, 4; builders, 23; butchers, 17; cabinet-makers and joiners, 13; carpenters, 19; cider-makers, 2; corn and ship-chandler, 1; engineers, 5; fellmongers, 22; foundries (iron and brass), 3; general dealers, 6; gunsmith, 1; mills, water, 5; mills, horse, 1; painters, plumbers, and glaziers, 8; pastry-cooks and confectioners, 4; pianoforte-maker, 1; publicans, 14; saw-mill, 1; soap-boilers, 3; stone-masons, 4; tanners, 5; tin-workers, 2; tobacco-nists, 2; turner, 1; wine merchant, 1; wool-staplers and sorters, 3. On the other hand there were the following decreases:—auctioneers, 5; bakers, 8; basket-maker, 1; boot and

shoemakers, 11; brewery, 1; candle manufactory, 1; chemist and druggist, 1; cooper, 1; dyer, 1; furriers, 2; grocers, 3; jam manufactories, 2; maltsters, 2; pottery, 1; sail-makers, 2; shipwrights and boat-builders, 8; tailors, 5; watch-makers, 2; wheelwrights, 2.

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III.—Finance.

The receipts and disbursements of the General and Land Revenues in the two years 1869 and 1870 are shown in the subjoined return furnished by the Assistant Colonial Treasurer:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF GENERAL REVENUE AND LAND FUND, for the Years 1869 and 1870, as ascertained up to JUNE 30, 1871.

General Revenue, exclusive of Debentures and Expenditure under Loans Acts.

REVENUE.	1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs and bonding rents - - - -	138,434	11	2	137,034	16	10
Inland revenue - - - - -	54,156	11	9	56,099	9	5
Other receipts - - - - -	24,264	9	4	24,682	14	10
Estimated receipts outstanding - - -	3,343	19	9	3,200	0	0
	220,199	12	0	221,017	1	1
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary expenditure - - - - -	211,221	15	0	215,339	14	11
Estimated expenditure outstanding - -	9,597	15	0	9,750	0	0
	£220,819	10	5	£225,089	14	11

Land Fund, exclusive of Debentures and Expenditure under Loans Acts.

REVENUE.	1869.			1870.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Territorial revenue - - - - -	56,602	0	2	46,264	4	9
Other receipts - - - - -	935	2	0	1,614	0	0
	57,537	2	2	47,878	4	9
EXPENDITURE.						
Ordinary expenditure - - - - -	47,507	6	4	47,645	9	2
Reserves under Waste Lands Acts - -	11,993	8	11	9,505	1	1
Estimated expenditure outstanding - -	—			100	0	0
	£59,500	15	3	£57,250	10	3

W. LOVETT, Assistant Colonial Treasurer.

The expenditure from the Commissariat Chest on account of the Imperial Service in 1870 was 65,759*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, being 3,255*l.* 12*s.* less than in 1869. Imperial expenditure.

The rates of exchange with London in 1870 varied considerably, as compared with 1869. The Bank rate for purchase of mercantile bills stood at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount in January; rose to par in the following month, and so continued until August, and again rose to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium in September, but fell to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount in November, and continued at the same rate until the end of the year. For their own bills the Banks charged, at the beginning of the year, 1 per Course of exchange.

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cent. premium in September, which was raised in February to $1\frac{1}{2}$ and in September to 3 per cent., but in November and December was reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

With the other Colonies the Exchange was the same as in 1869.

The rates of discount showed but little variation; and the interest allowed on deposits in the banks was the same as in the latter half of 1869.

Banks.

The comparison of the Bank Returns for 1870 with those for 1869 shows a considerable falling off in the business of the former year. It is true that the value of specie and bullion in hand in the first quarter exceeded that in the corresponding quarter of the previous year by 19,468*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, but in the next three quarters it fell short of it by 16,429*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, 27,047*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, and 26,136*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, respectively. The balances due from other banks were considerably smaller in 1870 than in 1869; while the debts due to the banks (how much of these was invested funds, such as debentures, we have no means of knowing) were larger. The value of the notes in circulation, though somewhat larger in the first quarter of 1870, was about 3,000*l.* less in each of the other quarters. The most noticeable difference between the figures of 1869 and those of 1870 is in regard to the deposits, which showed a decrease in the first quarter of 301*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*; in the second, of 68,678*l.* 11*s.*; in the third, of 69,501*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; and in the fourth, of 79,013*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

The most important items of the Bank Returns for the last five years are compared below:—

Years.	Average Assets.		Average Liabilities.	
	Coin and Bullion.	Debts due to Banks, &c.*	Notes in Circulation.	Deposits.
1866 - - - -	171,485	1,039,105	83,325	662,420
1867 - - - -	151,952	1,039,521	75,367	628,056
1868 - - - -	171,382	1,065,499	76,490	750,754
1869 - - - -	198,291	1,047,004	86,867	767,071
1870 - - - -	185,755	1,084,966	86,094	712,472

* Including notes, bills of exchange, stock and funded debts, but not including debts due from other banks.

Comparing the first and last years, there is an increase in every column. The specie in the banks was less in 1870 than in 1869, but more than in the other years; the debts due to the banks, &c. were greater than in all the other years; the value of notes in circulation also exceeded that of the other years, with the exception of 1869; the deposits, though greater in 1870 than in the two first years, were smaller than in 1868 and 1869. The increases in the figures for the latter year were most probably due in some measure to the brisk speculation in gold mining scrip which then prevailed. This was followed by a reaction in the next year, the consequences of which were felt in the stagnation of trade, and in commercial failures, and disturbance of credit. It is therefore nothing more than might naturally be expected that a comparison of the years 1869 and 1870 should be unfavourable to the latter year.

The average amount of business done by the savings banks, and the state of their funds in the last five years, is shown by the following data:—

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Savings
banks.

Years.	Assets.			Liabilities.		Deposits during the Year.*	Repayments during the Year.*
	Mortgages.	Debentures.	Cash in other Banks, and on hand.	Amount of Deposits.	Reserve Fund.		
1866 - -	£ 135,913	£ 64,190	£ 10,422	£ 194,429	£ 21,426	£ —	£ —
1867 - - -	125,282	73,565	11,242	193,093	22,867	101,646	102,924
1868 - - -	130,804	66,659	15,223	194,960	23,152	111,466	105,266
1869 - - -	126,615	82,276	22,278	212,508	24,185	122,019†	105,544
1870 - - -	134,492	87,189	19,595	223,262	23,648	119,120	109,065

* The amounts for 1866 cannot be given, the returns for that year not being complete.

† In the return for 1869 (Statistics, p. 71) this appears as 112,018*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The error was in the addition.

The fact which first strikes us on running the eye down the above columns is, that notwithstanding the evidences which meet us everywhere of the dulness of trade, and the declension of our commerce with other countries, the business of the savings banks has shown a steady increase. We may, I think, account for this fact, partly on the supposition that with the decline of the prosperity of former years the people have become more economical in their habits; and partly by the absence of that spirit of enterprise which formerly afforded a means of investment for small savings, thus causing to flow into these banks a part of that capital which was then directly and actively employed with the prospect of a larger profit in creating or distributing wealth.

Of the invested funds, it will be seen that in 1866 the mortgages amounted to 135,913*l.*, the debentures to 64,190*l.*; while the cash in hand was 10,422*l.*; in 1870, the mortgages amounted to 134,492*l.*, the debentures to 87,189*l.*, and the cash in hand to 19,595*l.* In the former year, therefore, 64·56 per cent. of the funds was lent on mortgage, 30·49 per cent. on debentures, and 4·95 per cent. was uninvested; in the latter the proportions were—mortgages, 55·74 per cent.; debentures, 36·14 per cent.; cash in hand, 8·12 per cent. The decrease in the proportion occupied by mortgages, and the corresponding increase in the other items, is very considerable.

The amount standing to credit of depositors, and the reserve fund, have pretty steadily increased during the whole five years. The amount deposited during the year had increased from 101,646*l.* in 1867 (the first year in which it was recorded in the statistics) to 119,120*l.* in 1870, having risen to 122,019*l.* in 1869. In like manner, the amount repaid to depositors during the year had increased from 102,924*l.* to 109,065*l.* The excess of deposits over repayments in the four years was 31,452*l.*

The business of the Post Office Money Order Office in the last four years—the furthest unbroken period to which the comparison can be extended—was as follows:—

Post Office
money orders.

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Years.	Issued.		Paid.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£
1867 - - - - -	3,319	12,729	2,412	10,033
1868 - - - - -	3,378	13,070	2,512	10,719
1869 - - - - -	4,398	16,668	3,135	12,991
1870 - - - - -	5,193	19,338	3,722	14,551

The system has made steady and continuous progress from its establishment; and the increases, as between 1867 and 1870, were in the following ratios, per cent.:—Issued: Number, 56·46; amount, 51·92. Paid: Number, 54·31; amount, 45·03.

Of the whole number of money orders issued in 1870, 2,027, or 39·03 per cent. were on other places within the Colony; 1,575, or 30·33 per cent., on Victoria; 863, or 16·62 per cent., on England and Wales; and 728, or 14·02 per cent. on other countries.

Public debt.

The public debt of the Colony, consisting of debentures, on the 31st December, 1870, was 1,268,700*l*. Beside this sum, debentures to the amount of 74,800 were authorized, but not issued at that date; and others, to the amount of 15,100*l*., were issuable for the purpose of redeeming other loans falling due in 1871. Of the total amount of the debt, 400,000*l*. were incurred on account of the Launceston and Western Railway, and 100,000*l*. for the abolition of State aid to religion; the annual sum of 15,000*l*., which was previously a direct charge against the colonial revenue for purposes of public worship, being thus commuted for a payment by way of interest of 6,000*l*. a year.

Gold mining.

The return relating to gold mining is, I am sorry to say, not so perfect as I should have wished to make it, the Commissioner at Lyndhurst having been unable to furnish the desired information for his district. The particulars given are, therefore, those of the district of Fingal only. There, however, we observe an increase of 95 persons employed, the total average number in 1870 having been 110 against 15 in 1869. From alluvial operations 600 oz. are said to have been produced in 1870, against 137 oz. 2 dwt. in 1869. In the latter year quartz mining in that district was altogether suspended; in 1870, during a part of the year, one company was at work, producing 364 oz. of gold, the average yield being 8 dwt. 6 gr. per ton.

As the productiveness of the gold-fields of this Colony is a matter of vital importance in its present depressed condition, and as anything bearing upon the subject must necessarily be of interest, I subjoin the observations of the Commissioners, furnished at my request; and, with reference to them, I would suggest that it should be made a condition of the occupation of Crown land for mining purposes that the occupant should furnish to the Commissioners periodical returns of such particulars relating to their operations as may be required for statistical purposes, such as number of persons employed, value of mining plant, amount of gold obtained, &c. Those who are working upon private property would probably be willing to furnish similar information as a matter of public interest.

Mr. Shaw, the Commissioner at Lyndhurst, writing on the 27th March lasts, says;—

TASMANIA.

“Referring to your circular of the 16th January last, asking for a return of gold-mining operations in this district, I regret to say I am unable to furnish it. Since the receipt of your circular I have endeavoured to collect the necessary information, but have failed. There was no provision in the late regulations to enable me to keep any record of the quantity of gold produced, and information was frequently refused. I object to put my name to a document which must necessarily be inaccurate. I cannot give you even an approximation.

“With reference to your request that I will furnish such information as I am able to give as to the present prospects of gold mining in my district, I can only say that at Waterhouse one claim is being worked; at the Back Creek, one; and at Nine Mile Springs, three. Throughout the whole district the land is locked up under lease or application for lease; the holders are not working themselves, nor is there any probability of their doing so, so long as they are permitted to hold the ground, and miners cannot get a footing in any part.”

The Commissioner at Fingal, on the 5th April, writes;—

“I have the honour to enclose a return of the mining operations in this district for the year 1870, which I have compiled from the best available information; but, for many reasons, the return is not so accurate as I could have wished, and can only, with regard to the alluvial workings, be looked upon as approximate.

“The fact of my not having held office during the first seven months of the year is some reason for my not being aware of the workings of the whole year; and it must also be borne in mind that no one company, alluvial or quartz mining, was in operation for more than two months, and several were only doing dead-work, and stopped before obtaining any gold. Indeed, I may say that no gold has been obtained from alluvial ground by any company since my appointment to the charge of this district. The Tullochgorum, Mangana Alluvial, Mangana Gold Mining (Carter's and Arabin's), and the Band of Hope companies are all at a standstill, although started with great promise for the future; and the railway, a small company not registered under the Companies' Act, but which has gone to some considerable expense to prove some ground in Black Horse Gully, near Reedy Marsh, has also failed to remunerate its shareholders. Notwithstanding the large sums that have been expended, the ground held by these companies remains for the most part untested; and the question as to its containing gold in remunerative quantities is no nearer a satisfactory answer than if a pick had never been put into the ground. Incapacity and duplicity appear to have been the rule in the management of the great bulk of Tasmanian gold companies; and until a new era is inaugurated, and the present system of company manipulation abolished, it seems useless to expect remunerative results from alluvial companies in this district.

“The alluvial ground that has been taken up under miners' rights has given very fair results, and the yield of alluvial gold at the pre-

TASMANIA.

sent time in this district is very far in advance of the previous year, if indeed it does not exceed anything hitherto realised in Tasmania. It is estimated that, at the lowest computation, from 70 to 80 ounces per week are being obtained by the alluvial gold miners at Reedy Marsh, and this yield seems to be steadily increasing. It is impossible to form more than an approximate estimate of the yield of gold, and large quantities are probably obtained and sold privately, of which no note can be taken. One can only judge by drawing inferences from those few cases where a fair estimate can be formed of the results of the miners' labour. The Reedy Marsh alluvial gold field is now supporting a population of some 300 strong, and these are receiving daily accessions to their numbers.

"In quartz mining there is little to report, only one company (the Tower Hill) was at work during the past year, and that only during the months of November and December, with the results stated in the Table. This company's battery is now, and has been for some time past, at a standstill, but a small amount of work is now being done upon the claim; and it is much to be regretted that, owing either to the quantity or the quality of the quartz not being equal to expectations, the hopes excited by the excellent commencement made by this company have been so greatly cast down by the sudden suspension of operations upon the claim.*

The general appearance of the reefs in this district is such as to afford fair prospects of success to bonâ fide workers upon them. * * * A company with a genuine capital of some twenty thousand pounds might, in competent hands, be reasonably expected to give fair returns to the shareholders, upon a very large percentage of the gold-bearing reefs in this district; but investors must not expect to receive immediate returns for their outlay, nor to procure competent men, nor substantial machinery, at a nominal outlay of capital. A small battery is at present at work on the City of Hobart claim. The proprietors of this claim have an exceedingly promising property. * * *

In the course of next summer we may fairly look for some tangible results both from our quartz reefs and alluvial mines, and I trust to be able to furnish you with more particulars in my next report than in the present meagre sketch; the materials for which, poor as they are, I have been some time in collecting, owing to the absence of all data from which to compile a full report."

IV.—*Establishments or Institutions maintained or assisted by Government.*

Post Office.

The returns relating to the Post Office in 1869 and 1870 exhibit the following particulars:—Revenue, 1870, 12,753*l.*; 1869, 12,388*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*; expenditure, 1870, 15,740*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; 1869, 13,598*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* In 1870, six additional Post Offices and receiving-houses were established, six more persons were employed, and the miles of post roads were increased by 70.

* Since this report was furnished, the yield from this company's claim has been such as to restore confidence among those who were previously discouraged by failure of success in gold mining.

The number of letters received and despatched in those years at the offices at Hobart Town and Launceston was:—

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Years.	Received.				Dispatched.				
	Paid.	Ship.	Franked.	Total.	Inland, paid.	Ship, paid.	Franked.		Total.
							Inland.	Ship.	
1868	200,108	166,156	79,210	445,474	183,676	142,140	67,724	3,380	396,920
1869	222,701	178,764	85,289	486,754	207,135	152,668	61,619	3,399	424,821

The town and district letters were as follows:—

Years.	Paid.	Franked.	Total.
1869 - - -	73,555	26,477	100,032
1870 - - -	76,390	34,145	110,535

The newspapers were:—

Years.	Received.			Dispatched.		
	Inland.	Ship.	Total.	Inland.	Ship.	Total.
1869 - - -	142,859	194,179	337,038	678,288	193,531	871,819
1870 - - -	121,476	214,358	335,834	644,946	200,309	845,255

On letters there appears to have been a considerable increase, amounting on the whole number passing both ways through the offices to 8·45 per cent.

On newspapers, on the contrary, there was a decrease, taking them in the same way as before, at the rate of 2·30 per cent.

The total number of messages sent by electric telegraph increased from 13,980 in 1869 to 20,536 in 1870—the increase being at the rate of 46·89 per cent. This result was doubtless caused by the reduction in 1869 of the rate of charge for messages within the Colony from 2s. 6d. to 1s. for ten words. From 1st May, 1869, when the reduction first took place, to 30th April, 1870, the amount received is stated to have been 781*l.* 3s. 9d.; but between the same dates in the next year it increased to 878*l.* 13s. 11d.

Electric telegraph.

The number of stations was increased during the year by 4, and the number of persons employed also by 4.

The following statement, furnished by the Secretary to the Salmon Commissioners, shows the number of ova and young fry distributed from the breeding ponds during the past year. In 1869, 14,489 ova and fry of the salmon and brown trout were supplied; in 1870 the number was increased to 23,390. These fish have now been introduced from Tasmania into several of the Australasian Colonies, and many of the rivers and streams in this Colony have been stocked with them.

Salmon, &c., breeding establishment.

TASMANIA. RETURN showing the DISTRIBUTION of OVA and FRY from the BREEDING PONDS, RIVER PLENTY, during the Year ending 31st December, 1870.

		OVA.			
Salmon trout	New Zealand	-	-	-	200
	Ballarat	-	-	-	100
	Launceston	-	-	-	600
Total salmon trout ova distributed		-	-	-	900
Brown trout	New Zealand	-	-	-	4,000
	Ballarat	-	-	-	1,000
	Gipps Land	-	-	-	2,000
	Launceston	-	-	-	1,000
	Lake Echo	-	-	-	550
Total brown trout ova distributed		-	-	-	8,550
		FRY.			
Salmon trout	River Derwent	-	-	-	450
	River Huon	-	-	-	500
Total salmon trout fry distributed		-	-	-	950
Brown trout	River Lachlan	-	-	-	1,400
	River Plenty	-	-	-	3,140
	River Styx	-	-	-	2,200
	Russell's Falls	-	-	-	1,900
	River Derwent	-	-	-	2,000
	Lakes near Bothwell	-	-	-	1,000
	Clarendon	-	-	-	200
	Woolpack	-	-	-	100
	Mountain River	-	-	-	300
	N. W. Bay	-	-	-	200
	New Town Creek	-	-	-	50
	Brown's River	-	-	-	500
	Guy Faux Rivulet	-	-	-	500
	Coal River	-	-	-	400
Total brown trout fry distributed		-	-	-	12,990
Grand total		-	-	-	23,890

Penal and charitable establishments.

Owing to neglect of duty on the part of the gaoler at Launceston in not furnishing the returns relating to the establishments under his control, those of the penal and charitable establishments are to that extent incomplete; and I have not the means therefore of ascertaining the total cost for the year.

The cost per head per annum in 1870 was:—At Port Arthur—under punishment, 36*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*; insane, 29*l.* 7*s.*; paupers in hospital, 28*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*; not in hospital, 21*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*; at the gaol for males, Hobart Town, 21*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*; at the gaol for females, Cascade—women, 12*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*; children, 8*l.* 16*s.* 4½*d.*; at the Cascade Pauper Establishment, 11*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*; Cascade Reformatory for Males, 11*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*; at the General Hospital, Hobart Town, 44*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*; at the hospital, Launceston, 35*l.* 3*s.* 4½*d.*;

at the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, 26*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*; at the Queen's Asylum, 16*l.* 9*s.* 2½*d.*, the profit arising from the farm not being taken into account; and at the Brickfields Pauper Establishment, 12*l.* At the following establishments, which were assisted by grants from the Treasury, but not under Government control, the cost per head was:—Industrial School for Females, 15*l.* 15*s.* 7½*d.*; Ragged School, 19*s.* 9*d.*; the Boys' Home, 19*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

TASMANIA.

The Boards of Works had at their disposal during the year a sum of 16,318*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, out of which they expended 5,664*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, leaving a balance unexpended at the end of the year of 10,880*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure was about 3,000*l.* less than in the previous year.

Boards of Works.

The Road Trusts had under their control in 1870, 2,769½ miles of road. The rates on private property ranged from 3*d.* to 1*s.* in the pound. The aggregate receipts amounted to 22,458*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, and the expenditure to 18,179*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* The receipts of the Bridge Trusts were 2,224*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; the expenditure was 1,941*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*

Road Trusts.

The municipalities of Hobart Town and Launceston show a total of receipts of 34,505*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; of expenditure of 32,593*l.* 7*s.* The rates in Hobart Town were 3*s.* 1½*d.* in the pound, and at Launceston 3*s.* 3*d.*

Municipalities.

The total receipts of the rural municipalities were 21,642*l.* 2*s.* 3½*d.*; the expenditure, 20,842*l.* 10*s.* 10½*d.*; the number of miles of road under their control being 316. These totals, however, are not complete, no return having been received from Sorell.

To the present volume a return of the annual rateable value of property throughout the Colony, as shown by the Valuation Rolls, has been added. The total amount is 669,615*l.* 16*s.*

Valuation of property.

V.—Crown Lands, Agriculture, and Live Stock.

The extent of land rented from the Crown in 1870 is stated to have been 1,350,211 acres, against 1,441,413 in 1869: the amount received for rents is returned as 7,210*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* in 1870, 7,307*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* in 1869. There was therefore a decrease in the acreage of 91,202; in the rental, of 97*l.* 2*s.*

Crown lands.

The number of lots of Crown land sold in 1870 was 332; in 1869, 305. The acreage in 1870 was 23,759*a.* 0*r.* 15½*p.*; in 1869, 19,474*a.* 2*r.* 8*p.* The amount realized in 1870 was 26,831*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*; in 1869, 21,921*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* The average price per acre in 1870 was, for country lots, 1*l.* 1*s.* 8½*d.*; for town lots, 3*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*; in 1869, for country lots, 1*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*; for town lots, 3*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*

The return relating to auriferous lands shows that in 1870 there were applied for—miners' rights, 1,524; mining leases, 161; prospecting lease, 1. In 1869 the numbers were—miners' rights, 1,162; mining leases, 118; prospecting claims, 16. In spite, therefore, of the reaction arising from unhealthy speculation in gold mining, this industry was making progress; and the present favourable results of the operations at the Tower Hill and City of Hobart Mines will give increased confidence to investors, and have a powerful influence in promoting the development of our gold-fields.

The agricultural and live stock returns for the year ended 31st March last, were completed and published in the 'Gazette' on

Agriculture.

TASMANIA.

July 11, 15 days earlier than in the previous year. The returns from Hamilton were not received complete until June 27; those from Sorell, in consequence of the confusion existing there in regard to municipal affairs, and the entire change of officials, not until July 8. In two days afterwards the returns were completed, carefully checked, and forwarded to the Government Printing Office for publication.

Acreage.

The total acreage of land in cultivation in 1870 was 330,257, against 318,484 in the previous year—being an increase of 3·70 per cent.

The number of acres occupied by the principal crops in the last five years was—

Crops.	1866.	1867-8.	1868-9.	1869-70.	1870-1.
Wheat - - - -	71,348	64,020	62,186	62,379	57,382
Barley - - - -	4,596	6,860	7,954	9,030	7,617
Oats - - - -	34,358	27,574	24,199	30,061	30,946
Pease - - - -	3,655	4,558	3,627	3,841	4,538
Potatoes - - -	10,520	10,766	7,977	9,290	9,823
Hay - - - -	33,762	33,064	33,275	34,862	33,612
Hops - - - -	143	233	476	561	642

The only crops which show any improvement are barley, peas, and hops. As regards potatoes, although a wider area was under crop in 1870-1 than in 1869-70, yet it was under that in 1866. The increase in hops is about 450 per cent. But the present low prices, and the protective duty which has just been put on this and other articles in Victoria, will probably prevent any further increase until some counteracting cause shall have come into operation.

In all the root crops, except mangel-wurzel, there was a decrease. In mangel-wurzel there was an increase of 117 acres.

The acreage in beans and tares forms but a very minute proportion of the whole; but small as it was, there was an increase last year of 183 acres, or 31·17 per cent. On that in tobacco there was a decrease of 98, or 44·14 per cent. Green forage shows an increase of 503 acres, or 31·54 per cent.; permanent artificial grasses, an increase of 2,954, or 3·72 per cent.; bare fallows, an increase of 4,069, or 18·45 per cent.; all other land in a state of cultivation, an increase of 8,960 acres, or 16·12 per cent.; new land broken up, an increase of 419, or 7·70 per cent.; under rotation of crops, an increase of 14,472 acres, or 58·61 per cent. If the last term has been rightly understood in furnishing the information to the collectors, the result is very satisfactory, and must be regarded as an earnest of the institution of a better system of cultivation. Seeing a large increase under this head in the Port Sorell district, I examined the nominal return, and found the total made up of a very large number of small, or comparatively small, holdings; so that I have no reason to question its correctness. At Sorell in 1870-1, 5,498 acres were returned under this head; in the previous year, none.

The number of acres of wheat reaped by machine in the past year was 11,993; in the previous year only 3,685. In 1869-70 the acreage reaped by machine was only 5·92 per cent. of the whole acreage under wheat, 94·08 per cent. having been reaped by hand;

in 1870-1 it amounted to 20·90 per cent. of the whole, the acreage reaped by hand being only 79·10 per cent. It would appear, therefore, that the farmers are becoming aware of the necessity of employing machinery in agricultural operations; and this is an important step gained.

As the gross produce is dependent upon the acreage and average yield, it is not necessary to burden this report with any remarks upon it. I shall therefore pass on to compare the average of the principal crops in the last four years. I am not able to carry it back five years, because previously to 1867-8—the first year in which the returns were compiled by me—the average was not calculated, and it would be a work of too much time and labour to do so now. Hops are omitted, because in the earlier part of the period, being almost confined to one district, unless the age of the plants were also given, any general average would, for purposes of comparison, be very deceptive.

TASMANIA.

Average
produce.

Crops.	1867-8.	1868-9.	1869-70.	1870-1.
Wheat, bushels - - - -	13·98	14·13	15·35	15·92
Barley, ditto - - - -	24·40	15·79	22·49	22·44
Oats, ditto - - - -	22·94	19·75	22·19	22·79
Pease, ditto - - - -	18·64	13·13	19·21	18·04
Potatoes, tons - - - -	3·49	3·43	3·54	3·41
Hay, ditto - - - -	1·03	0·85	1·29	1·31

The prices of agricultural produce, as returned by the collectors, do not seem to present many variations of any importance as compared with those of the previous year. Barley was generally cheaper, as well as apples and pears. But the greatest decline was in the price of hops, which at New Norfolk fell from one shilling and sixpence per pound to ninepence, or 50 per cent. At Glenorchy, in 1871, they were returned at one shilling per pound; in 1870, at one shilling and eightpence. This fall in the price of one of our principal productions has caused serious loss to an important class of agriculturists.

Prices.

In the return of machinery used for agricultural purposes we observe some increases, namely, clod crushers, 12; cultivators, 19; horse hoes, grubbers, and scarifiers, 106; irrigation works, 13; lift and force pumps, 5; ploughs (sub-soil), 20; reaping and mowing machines, combined, 18; seed drills, 12; threshing machines (horse), 4; while, on the other hand, there are decreases in the following:—steam-engines, 4; chaff cutters, 10; corn crushers, 2; hay rakes (horse), 4; mowing machines, 21; reaping machines, 6; sowing machines, 2; threshing machines (steam), 4.

Agricultural
machines.

In comparing the number of live stock in the past and previous years, we observe an increase of 96 horses, 6,362 horned cattle, 19 goats, 2 mules, and 1 ass. In sheep there was a decrease of 181,412 on the number returned in the earlier year. A comparison of the returns furnished to me, with those obtained by the Chief Inspector of sheep, shows that in that year, in some instances, sheep belonging to the same owner were included in more than one district, and this being corrected in 1870-1, would account for some of the difference; but the immense numbers of rabbits which prevail in some

Live stock.

TASMANIA.

Live stock
slaughtered.

parts of the Colony, and are now causing such alarm among the flockowners, must have had a much greater share in the reduction.

The number of sheep and cattle imported and slaughtered in the last quinquennium, as given by the Inspectors of Stock at Hobart Town and Launceston, was:—

Years.	Sheep.		Horned Cattle.	
	Imported.	Slaughtered.	Imported.	Slaughtered.
1866 - - - - -	15,010	74,487	1,368	6,365
1867 - - - - -	35,595	69,673	1,935	7,001
1868 - - - - -	44,732	76,512	2,427	6,304
1869 - - - - -	24,856	86,886	1,657	7,833
1870 - - - - -	17,515	89,585	1,653	7,196

If from the number slaughtered we deduct the imported stock, we shall arrive pretty nearly at the number of home-raised stock killed for the consumption of Hobart Town and Launceston. These, accordingly, were:—

Years.	Sheep.	Cattle.
1866 - - -	59,477	5,002
1867 - - -	84,078	5,066
1868 - - -	31,780	3,877
1869 - - -	62,030	6,176
1870 - - -	72,070	5,543

The consumption in the two last years has enormously increased, if the returns furnished to me be correct.

Collectors'
Reports.

The Report of the Collectors of Agricultural Statistics do not give much indication of improvement during the past year. Clearing, fencing, &c., are stated to be proceeding briskly in Gould's New Country, and some attention is there given to the growth of hops. The latter is also said to be the case at Hamilton. At Longford the Collector considers that the agricultural and pastoral interests are "in a healthy state." At New Norfolk 60½ acres of land were planted with hops in the year, and three new kilns were erected. The Collector at Port Sorell has furnished an exceedingly good Report, and I would commend it to the consideration of the general class of farmers in this Colony. "A little better system of farming prevails here," he says, "if any system save a very bad one can be said to exist in any part of the district." It appears from his remarks that the farmers are not unwilling to learn, if they had any one to show them practically how to adopt a better system. It is much to be deplored that there are no means of doing so, or of disseminating among them information to this end. The Agricultural Associations might, if they felt inclined, do very much more to benefit the cultivators of the soil in this way than they now do. At Richmond I am glad to observe "a steady inclination to extend the use of machinery as evidenced in the increase in the number of reaping and threshing machines, &c." At Westbury the Collector states that in a great many instances the grain perished from the wet. "There are a great number of tenants," he observes, "in this district not in a position to expend money in draining their lands.

"Those who are adopting that very excellent system feel the very great advantage it is to their lands, whether in crop or otherwise."

TASMANIA.

VI.—*Law, Crime, &c.*

The number of persons committed for trial in 1870 was 138; in 1869, 155; being a decrease of 10·97 per cent. Committals.

The number of persons tried in the Superior Courts in the last two years was:— Trials in Superior Courts.

Years.	Felonies.	Misdemeanours.	Total.	Classed as Offences	
				Against the Person.	Against Property.
1869 - - - -	81	31	112	47	65
1870 - - - -	78	32	110	45	65

The comparison is therefore in favour of the latter year.

One execution took place in 1870, as in 1869.

The number of offenders summarily dealt with by magistrates or committed for trial in 1870 shows a favourable comparison with that in the previous year; the decrease being at the rate of 7·97 per cent. Executions.
Magisterial jurisdiction.

Years.	Number of Offenders.		
	Apprehended.	Appeared on Summons.	Total.
1869 - - -	4,447	2,859	7,306
1870* - - -	4,035	2,689	6,724

* Offences at Sorell not returned. In 1869 there were there apprehended 93, and 102 persons appeared on summons.

* The amount of litigation in the Supreme Court under "The Small Debts Act," in 1869 and 1870, was as follows:—Summons issued, 1870, 50; 1869, 58: cases tried, 1870, 32; 1869, 27: amount of claims sued for, 1870, 503*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*; 1869, 488*l.* 17*s.*: amount of verdicts obtained, 1870, 415*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*; 1869, 410*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*: warrants and subpoenas issued, 1870, 18; 1869, 26. Litigation.

In its ordinary civil jurisdiction the Supreme Court tried 18 cases in 1870, against 28 in 1869: and issued writs of summonses in 1870, 366; in 1869, 356.

In the Inferior Courts of Requests the litigation in the two years was:—

Years.	Total Number of		Total Amount of		Writs of Fi. Fa. issued.
	Summonses issued.	Cases tried.	Claims sued for.	Verdicts obtained.	
1869 - - -	2,370	1,261	£ 13,797 10 8½	£ 6,381 15 0	865
1870 - - -	2,518	1,389	£ 13,718 19 8½	£ 6,816 16 11	428

Probates and Letters of Administration were granted by the Supreme Court in 1870 to the number of 87, representing a sum of 207,596*l.*; the number in 1869 being 84, the amount 83,957*l.* Probates, &c.

TASMANIA.

Insolvencies.

The insolvencies in the two years were as follows:—

Years.	Number declared Insolvent	Amount of scheduled			
		Assets.		Liabilities.	
1869 - - -	75	£ 22,166	s. 6 d. 6	£ 159,572	s. 6 d. 2
1870 - - -	80	£ 45,689	s. 6 d. 5	£ 132,561	s. 8 d. 1

Mortgages.

The number of mortgages registered was—in 1870, 234; in 1869, 269; the amount in 1870, 139,138*l.* 5*s.*; in 1869, 145,690*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

Lands' Titles Office.

Under the Real Property Act 584 transactions are recorded as having taken place in 1870, the value of property in question being 135,466; the area, 90,509*a.* 3*r.* 4*p.* In 1869 the number of transactions was 506; the value of property, 120,794*l.*; the area 63,375*a.* 1*r.* 27*p.*

Grant deeds.

The number of grant deeds enrolled in the Supreme Court in 1870 was 396, against 419 in 1869, being a decrease of 5.49 per cent.

Inquests.

Inquests were held in 1870 on the bodies of 152 persons, against 158 in 1869.

VII.—Education, Religion, &c.

Publicschools.

From the returns contained in this volume, and from a return prepared by the Board of Education, a copy of which was forwarded to me by direction of the Chairman, I am enabled to supply the information which follows.

The number of schools under the Board of Education was 128; the number of children on the rolls 9,997; in average daily attendance, 5,241. The cost of the public schools was—16,588*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, 12,211*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* of which was borne by the State, and 4,377*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* by the parents. The particulars extracted in the following Table may be useful and interesting beyond this Colony.

Colonies.	Percentage of Children to Population.		Cost per Scholar									Cost per head of Population.		
			Of number on Rolls.			Of number in average daily attendance.								
	On the Rolls.	In average daily attendance.	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.	To the State.	To the Parents.	Total.			
Tasmania - -	10.06	5.07	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales	17.06	7.65	1 4 5	0 8 9	1 13 2	2 8 5	0 17 4	3 5 9	0 2 5	0 0 10	0 2 5	0 0 10	0 2 5	0 0 10
Queensland - -	14.76	7.03	1 4 2	0 9 6	1 13 9	2 13 1	1 1 3	3 15 3	0 4 1	0 1 7	0 5 8	0 4 1	0 1 7	0 5 8
South Australia	8.34	6.61	1 4 6	0 17 0	2 1 6	1 10 10	1 1 6	2 12 6	0 2 0	0 1 5	0 3 5	0 2 0	0 1 5	0 3 5
Victoria - -	16.96	8.44	1 4 1	0 15 6	2 0 5	2 10 1	1 11 2	3 1 4	0 4 2	0 2 7	0 6 9	0 4 2	0 2 7	0 6 9

The expenditure by the Council of Education in 1870 amounted to 1,055*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, including 800*l.* on account of four Tasmanian scholarships. The expenditure on account of school exhibitions awarded by the Council and Board of Education respectively was 570*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* The number of such exhibitions held in 1870 was 29, eight of which were awarded in that year.

The return relating to Friendly Societies shows that 15 societies complied with the requirements of the Act by rendering their accounts to the Clerks of the Peace—two less than in 1869. The aggregate receipts of these societies during the past year amounted to 3,326*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*., the expenditure to 3,783*l*. 10*s*. 7*d*., the invested capital to 8,798*l*. 17*s*. 7*d*., and the number of members to 1,565.

There was a decrease on the receipts and capital, but an increase on the expenditure and on the number of members.

VIII.—Vital Statistics.

In 1870 there were registered the births of 1,615 male, and 1,439 female children, a total of 3,054, being 195 more than in 1869.

The birth rate in 1870 was 30·31 per 1,000 of the population at the end of the year. For the last five years the birth rate was—

In 1866	-	-	-	-	28·81	per 1000.
" 1867	-	-	-	-	30·18	"
" 1868	-	-	-	-	29·69	"
" 1869	-	-	-	-	28·78	"
" 1870	-	-	-	-	30·31	"

It was therefore higher in 1870 than in any of the other years.

The proportion of male to female children whose births were registered, in the last five years, was—

In 1866	-	-	-	-	104·12	to 100.
" 1867	-	-	-	-	102·66	"
" 1868	-	-	-	-	104·51	"
" 1869	-	-	-	-	102·19	"
" 1870	-	-	-	-	112·23	"

The excess of males in 1870 is very remarkable, and quite unusual.

The number of deaths registered in 1870 was 1,404, of whom 873 were males, and 531 were females. Beside these, 4 convicts under sentence died at Port Arthur, and one criminal (free by servitude) was executed, whose deaths were not registered, making the whole number of deaths in the year 1409, against 1,442 in 1869. The ratio of deaths to total population was therefore 13·98 per 1,000.

The rate of mortality for the last five years is shown below :—

Years.					Ratio per 1000 of living Population.
1866	-	-	-	-	13·72
1867	-	-	-	-	14·36
1868	-	-	-	-	16·61
1869	-	-	-	-	13·51
1870	-	-	-	-	13·98

The deaths of males and females in proportion to the total number of each sex living at the end of the year were, per 1,000,—males, 16·33; females, 11·23. For every 100 deaths of females there were, therefore, 145·45 deaths of males.

The following Table shows the ratios of deaths in 1870 at each age

TASMANIA.
Friendly
Societies.

TASMANIA.

to 1,000 persons of each sex of the same age living at the date of the last Census,* 7th February, 1870:—

Ages.	Males.		Females.	
	No. of Deaths.	Proportion per 1000 of Males at each age living.	No. of Deaths.	Proportion per 1000 of Females at each age living.
All ages - - - - -	873	16·33	531	11·23
Under 1 year - - - - -	174	117·25	124	88·38
" 2 years - - - - -	23	19·36	21	15·82
" 5 " - - - - -	32	7·26	33	7·52
" 10 " - - - - -	22	2·96	23	3·21
" 15 " - - - - -	20	2·96	15	2·21
" 20 " - - - - -	17	3·96	11	2·42
" 30 " - - - - -	40	7·06	36	5·48
" 40 " - - - - -	40	7·69	41	7·47
" 50 " - - - - -	63	10·03	58	13·67
" 60 " - - - - -	118	22·31	59	21·79
" 70 " - - - - -	133	41·24	52	41·28
" 80 " - - - - -	127	100·63	47	95·14
" 90 " - - - - -	49	208·51	10	126·53
Above 90 " - - - - -	11	305·55	—	—
Ages not specified - - - - -	2	—	1	—

The deaths of males almost uniformly exceeded those of females, the exceptions being at the ages of 2 to 5, 5 to 10, 40 to 50, and 60 to 70. In the case of children under one year, and in that of persons between 80 and 90, the excess was very marked. Between 2 and 10 years the chances of life were slightly in favour of the boys, and again between 40 and 50, and between 60 and 70, the males have the advantage. At the last named period of life the rates seem to have been practically equal. Between 40 and 50 is the most dangerous epoch of a woman's life; and the rate of mortality at that age might therefore naturally be expected to be in favour of the other sex.

The proportion of deaths of males and females at each age to 100 deaths of males and females respectively, of all ages, was—

Ages.	Males.	Females.
All ages - - - - -	100·00	100·00
Under 1 year - - - - -	19·93	23·35
" 2 years - - - - -	2·86	3·96
" 5 " - - - - -	3·67	6·21
" 10 " - - - - -	2·52	4·33
" 15 " - - - - -	2·29	2·83
" 20 " - - - - -	1·95	2·07
" 30 " - - - - -	4·58	6·78
" 40 " - - - - -	4·58	7·72
" 50 " - - - - -	7·21	10·93
" 60 " - - - - -	13·52	11·11
" 70 " - - - - -	15·24	9·79
" 80 " - - - - -	14·55	8·85
" 90 " - - - - -	5·61	1·88
Above 90 " - - - - -	1·26	—
Not specified - - - - -	0·23	0·19

* This is the nearest obtainable approximation to the true numbers. The errors will probably not be greater than if the population had been obtained by calculation from the estimated number on 31st December.

The deaths are classified according to diseases as follows:—

TASMANIA.

			Percentage of total Deaths of each sex.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
I. Zymotic diseases - - -	111	96	12·71	18·08
II. Constitutional diseases - - -	95	91	10·88	17·14
III. Local diseases - - -	416	217	47·65	40·87
IV. Developmental diseases - - -	155	95	17·76	17·89
V. Violence - - - -	80	22	9·17	4·14
Unspecified causes - - - -	16	10	1·83	1·88
All causes - - - -	873	531	100·00	100·00

The greatest number of deaths occurred in the March quarter, when it was 381; the least in the December quarter, when it was 280. This is in accordance with the general law prevailing in this Colony.

The meteorological features of the past year may be thus summarized:—Barometer at temperature of 32°, and at mean sea level 29·914, being ·039 in excess of the previous year, and ·107 in excess of the 25 years' average; mean temperature, 55·96, being ·14 below that of the previous year, but 1·51 above 25 years average; mean diurnal range, 18·52, being ·64 higher than the previous year, which exceeded the mean of the 25 years by ·02; mean solar intensity, 92·57, which was below the usual standard; mean terrestrial radiation, 42·45, also below; humidity of air, ·71, also below; elastic force of vapour, ·317, below 1869, but slightly above the 25 years; total rainfall, 27·53 inches, being 3·66 above 1869, and 4·88 above the 25 years; number of days on which rain fell, 130, the same as in 1869, but 15 below the average of 25 years; ozone, 6·52, being ·68 below 1869, and ·66 below the 25 years; wind, prevailing direction, N.W., and total force during the year, 704·13 lbs. per square inch, being 182·47 lbs. more than in 1869. The monthly mean of the wind-force was 15·20 above that of 1869, but 4·31 below the 25 years' average.

Meteorology.

The number of cases of disease treated in the hospitals (not including the insane) and in the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children, during the past year, was 1,505, and the number of deaths, 180, being in the ratio of 11·96 per cent. At the Queen's Asylum there was one death. At the Cascade Pauper Establishment the deaths of males were 22; females, 19: the rate of mortality, calculated on the average number of each sex during the year was therefore, for males, 13·33 per 100; for females, 16·10 per 100. For the whole population the rate of mortality between 60 and 70 (the average age of these paupers being 67) was for males 15·24, and for females, 9·79 per cent.

Diseases, &c., in charitable institutions.

At the Hospital for the Insane there were 180 cases of sickness treated, and 21 deaths, the ratio of deaths to cases being 11·66 per cent.

In 1870 there were performed 670 marriages, being an increase of 19 on those of the preceding year. The marriage rate per 1,000

Marriages.

TASMANIA. of population in 1870 was 6·65. For the last five years it was:—

<u>Years.</u>					<u>Rate per 1000 of Population.</u>
1866	-	-	-	-	5·86
1867	-	-	-	-	6·06
1868	-	-	-	-	6·49
1869	-	-	-	-	6·55
1870	-	-	-	-	6·65

The ratio in 1870 thus appears to have been the highest in the five years.

Vaccinations. Not a single vaccination was performed in any public institution during the past year, the medical officers having, in every case, furnished "Nil" returns.

IX.—*Miscellaneous.*

**Political
franchise.**

The only returns under this head which require any remark are those relating to Parliamentary Representation. In order to carry out the changes in the constitution of the two Houses, the Electoral Act 34 Vict., No. 12, directs that no Court of Revision shall be held "for the purpose of preparing Electoral Rolls and Polling Lists to come into force on the eleventh day of April, 1871," and the number of electors on the rolls was therefore the same as in the previous year.

Conclusion.

The general view of the state of the Colony which we gain from the foregoing facts and from the returns themselves, in as far as its material interests are concerned, cannot be said to be satisfactory. The trade with other countries was still declining, and under the operation of the system of protective duties* in which our neighbours fondly, but foolishly, put their trust, may be expected to be still further limited; and the business of the banks was following in the same track. The low prices of wool and hops were the cause of great depression among the growers, and must have seriously affected all other interests. The improvement which is now established in the price of wool, and the defective yield of hops in England, will doubtless bring about a partial reaction in the present year. The prospect of the speedy commencement of the main line of railway will lend an impetus to trade; and the development of the gold-fields at Mangana, Black Boy, and on the North Coast, which, if somewhat slowly, is nevertheless surely, proceeding, warrant us in believing that the worst period of depression is already passing away. If there were any probability of a Customs Union being soon established, we should be justified in indulging more sanguine hopes; but as long as the present unnatural retaliatory† system continues,

* "Protection has been clearly shown to mean—a thieving from one man to give another the half, and waste the other half on the way."—'Lectures on Political Economy,' by F. W. Newman, p. 26.

† "The plea of *reciprocation* was the last fallacy by which it was sought to forbid Free Trade, and the meaning of it was, to keep up the system of prohibitions after it was condemned by teaching each State that no one must abolish it, for fear others should not follow its example."—*Ibid*, p. 194.

it must act as a serious hindrance to the prosperity of the Colony.

TASMANIA.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. C. NOWELL,
Government Statistician.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.

No. 17.

(No Report received; but a Statistical View of its progress is annexed.)

STATISTICAL VIEW OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—1870.
STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, from the Year 1861 to 1870, inclusive.

Year.	Population.	No. of Inhabitants in city of Adelaide.	No. of Inhabitants in country districts.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Convictions in Supreme Court.	Flour milled.	Lands sold in each year.	Acres.	No. of acres under cultivation.	Live Stock.		
												Horses.	Horned Cattle.	Sheep and lambs.
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1861	126,890	18,303	108,527	5,551	1,158	1,962	62	76	147,354	486,667	52,597	265,494	8,088,356	8,431,000
1862	135,393	—	—	6,075	1,189	1,918	64	77	123,910	494,511	56,251	258,342	8,431,000	8,431,000
1863	140,416	—	—	5,966	1,152	2,221	86	77	159,791	555,968	59,008	226,166	8,691,642	8,691,642
1864	147,341	—	—	6,208	1,291	2,565	70	75	224,171	567,775	62,899	204,892	4,106,280	4,106,280
1865	156,605	—	—	6,672	1,436	2,174	134	80	316,477	660,569	73,993	158,057	8,779,308	8,779,308
1866	163,452	28,229	140,223	6,782	1,299	2,753	107	77	214,429	739,714	70,829	123,890	3,911,610	3,911,610
1867	172,860	—	—	7,041	1,379	2,939	126	76	144,020	810,734	74,228	122,200	4,477,445	4,477,445
1868	176,298	—	—	7,247	1,286	2,516	128	82	199,693	808,234	75,409	123,213	4,987,024	4,987,024
1869	181,146	—	—	6,976	1,211	2,211	121	80	182,291	850,576	73,828	119,697	4,496,955	4,496,955
1870	183,797	—	—	7,021	1,260	2,544	117	80	115,876	959,006	83,744	136,832	4,400,655	4,400,655

Year.	Shipping.		Export of produce of the Colony.				Value of		Expenditure.
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Breadstuffs, Grain, &c.	Minerals and Metals.	Wool.	Total exports of produce (including sundries).	Total Exports.	Total Imports.	
No.	No.	Tonnage.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
1861	401	108,196	387	96,135	13,164,391	623,077	1,898,639	2,032,311	1,976,018
1862	374	105,231	392	111,290	13,229,009	635,270	1,920,487	2,145,796	1,820,656
1863	440	127,067	446	127,826	15,566,787	715,935	2,095,336	2,358,817	2,028,279
1864	617	160,095	619	161,293	16,092,095	775,656	3,015,537	3,305,545	2,412,931
1865	619	183,102	601	174,188	16,269,890	821,482	2,754,657	3,129,846	2,927,596
1866	524	169,439	515	170,432	19,739,523	990,173	2,589,723	2,858,787	2,835,142
1867	555	167,547	581	176,272	19,350,195	919,532	2,776,095	3,164,622	2,506,394
1868	446	136,051	457	141,821	28,899,190	1,305,280	2,603,826	2,819,800	2,238,510
1869	564	169,991	548	163,516	27,022,671	1,008,669	2,792,438	2,993,035	2,754,770
1870	445	140,081	471	147,908	25,908,728	902,753	2,123,237	2,419,498	2,029,793

* Almost total failure of the harvest 1867-8, owing to red rust.
† Excepting as regards the years marked thus †, in which the census was taken, the number given is the population as estimated at the close of each year. The figures previous to 1860 have been procured from the best available sources; where blanks occur, the information was not obtainable.
‡ Total extent of land alienated, 4,068,067 acres.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 1871.

J. BOOTHBY, Government Statist.

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor WELD to
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 69.)

MY LORD,

Government House, Perth, May 22, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1870. The cause of the delay which has occurred in its transmission is explained in the Colonial Secretary's Report, which I also enclose, and in my reply to your Lordship's Circular Despatch of 7th March, 1871.

The Colonial Secretary's Report is so full that further comment seems almost superfluous on my part, especially as I have discussed the subjects alluded to in his report with him so frequently that I have little to add and less to dissent from.

The remarks of the Colonial Secretary on the financial state of the Colony are just, and I concur in them, but I have hopes of an improvement, though not of a very immediate one. Early rains are now falling, commercial prospects are brighter in Europe, and stocks in merchants' hands here must be getting low, so that there is reason to hope for an increase of the revenue, especially if the timber companies' operations extend, or should gold be found in payable quantities. On the other hand, the reductions I have made in Imperial expenditure increase colonial burthens and lessen the supply of ready money. I would also note in regard to the expenditure on public works, that soon after my arrival it became necessary for me to recover, as far as possible, the advance made by my (acting) predecessor to distressed agriculturists for seed wheat, by allowing them to work out their debts on public works. By this means the sandhills which threatened to overwhelm the town of Geraldton have been arrested in their progress and covered in great measure with bush at a comparatively small further outlay; the operation has been most successful, and of vital importance to both the town and port of Champion Bay district. The stone crushers alluded to by the Colonial Secretary suit our hard stone admirably; one is now at work in the town of Perth, and the other has been offered to a proposed combination of district Road Boards. They will to some extent cause the diminution of convict labour to be less severely felt.

I wish to call your Lordship's attention to the prosperity of the wine-growing interest, which I hope will hereafter become a main source of prosperity to the Colony. I am informed that one gentleman, who has about 30 acres in vines, expects this year to make a profit of 1,000*l.*, and there appears to be a ready sale within the Colony itself for all wine that is likely to be produced for some time to come; indeed, the best wines are sold as soon as they are at all drinkable. I anticipate good results from the advent of an Italian gentleman,

referred to in my Despatch, No. 40, of 2nd March, 1871, a practical and scientific wine grower and wine maker, who is also about to devote himself to sericulture.

Letters which have this morning reached me from the Government Resident at Nicholl Bay, give most favourable accounts of the pearl shell fishery, new banks having been discovered. The Malay divers seem to be a success, and it is probable that more will be sent for.

I have already pointed out the urgent necessity for steam communication on this coast; unless it be established the trade of the North-west Settlements will go to Singapore, in the same manner as the Albany supplies on the South-east are already derived from Adelaide. I hope that I shall, with the assistance of the Colonial Secretary, be able to impress upon the colonists of Western Australia that steam communication in these days is a vital necessity, and that the difficulty of communication along the coast and with neighbouring Colonies cripples trade, and, more than anything else, retards the progress of the Colony.

There has been a slight increase in tonnage, both in entrances and clearances over former years.

Imports have fallen, as might have been expected, from 256,729*l.* in 1869 to 213,239*l.* in 1870, and exports slightly from 205,502*l.* to 200,985*l.* It is, however, satisfactory to find that the imports and exports are so nearly balanced.

The acreage under crop has increased from 49,089 acres in 1869 to 54,527 in 1870. Of live stock, horses and cattle have remained nearly stationary, and owing to bad seasons there is an actual decrease of about 40,000 on sheep.

Of our exports, ores, sandalwood, and timber show an increase, and wool a decrease. I think the next returns will show an increase on the item of whale-oil, and a very considerable one on timber. In a good season we should export wheat.

I have already in various Despatches touched on the other matters referred to in the Colonial Secretary's report, legislative and ecclesiastical, coast survey, immigration, new industries, pauperism, and others, I will therefore only add that the reduction of convictions at the petty sessions, and the diminution of drunkenness which has been especially observable in the convict class, is a valuable testimony to the efficiency of the police and convict arrangements; a few months ago there was rather an increase of crime of a more serious nature, several burglaries having taken place, which I attributed to the difficulty the bond class experienced in obtaining employment. Since then, the police reports show a marked improvement, and in the district in which the West Australian Timber Company has lately commenced operations, ticket-of-leave and conditional pardon men find no difficulty in obtaining employment for cash payments, which proves that the diminution of drunkenness is not alone attributable to want of means for self-indulgence; and I trust that the lesson given by the late bad seasons has impressed the necessity of more provident habits upon all classes of our labouring population. Many causes have been assigned for the slow progress of this Colony, but the fact has been too often overlooked, that no country can prosper when earnings are spent in drink instead of being profitably invested,

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which, as far as I can learn, has been more frequently the case here than in any country with which in the course of a very considerable colonial experience I have been acquainted. In connection with this subject I am able to state with much gratification that the savings bank's deposits have increased from 6,797*l.* in 1869 to 7,237*l.* in 1870, having almost reached the figure at which they stood previous to the bad seasons from which the Colony has been suffering.

Having assumed the Government here at a period when it became my duty to reduce Imperial expenditure on which the Colony has relied, when the revenue was falling off, commercial enterprise stagnant, and evil auguries of the future were rife, I have used my utmost efforts to adopt or urge on the colonists the best means of rising superior to the difficulties which have surrounded us. Necessarily the work of renovating this Colony is one of time and difficulty, but I see no reason, in the present aspect of affairs, to doubt but that with a continuation of that support which I have always received and gratefully acknowledge from the Home Government and the co-operation of the colonists, my task may be crowned with success, and that the time is not far distant when Western Australia may become a self-supporting and self-relying Colony.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED. A. WELD,
Governor.

SIR,

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
May 19, 1871.

Herewith I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1870, and to express my regret that the preparation of it should have been delayed so long beyond the usual time; an unusual press of office work combined with a weak clerical staff, added to the fact that I was personally engaged during the early portion of the year at the session of the Legislative Council, must be my excuses for a delay that has not occurred during the period (16 years) that I have held my present office.

2. It will be observed that the actual forms transmitted from England have not been used in compiling the Blue Book, as on previous occasions; the establishment of a Government printing press has this year been availed of to strike off a number of copies for distribution; the forms have been slightly varied for convenience sake, but the information asked for has in all cases been given. Hitherto it has been a work of considerable labour to prepare three manuscript copies, two for transmission and one for record in the Colony.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for the year was about 3,000*l.* less than was estimated, and 5,500*l.* less than was received in 1869, and this may be accounted for by the depressions in all interests consequent on a suc-

cession of bad seasons. The harvest of 1869, when your Excellency first arrived, was very far below the average; in 1868 it was almost a total failure, and in 1870 the crops in no parts of the Colony were such as to leave much margin for profit. Such a continuance of bad seasons affected trade in every way, many persons were thrown out of work, and the revenue consequently depreciated.

Expenditure.

4. Notwithstanding this depreciation there was an excess of expenditure beyond the estimated sum of 11,000*l.*, a considerable portion of which was expended in public works, which afforded employment for those seeking it; there was also the expense of an exploring expedition to South Australia, as well as the importation of stone crushers and engines which were ordered to be sent for by a resolution of the Legislative Council at the Session in May, 1870, and did not appear on the estimates.

Census.

5. A Census of the population was taken on the 31st March, 1870. The population throughout the entire Colony did not exceed 25,000 in number, but the altered numbers of the various religious denominations gave rise to changes in the conduct of ecclesiastical and scholastic affairs to which I shall hereafter allude.

New Legislature.

6. The principal event of the year was undoubtedly the passing a measure for the establishment of Representative Legislative Council, under the provision of the Imperial Act, 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 59; this was done on the 1st of June, 1870, the forty-first anniversary of the foundation of the Colony; the first elections took place during the month of October, and the Council was formally inaugurated by your Excellency on the 5th December. Many of the numerous measures submitted for consideration passed into law, but not till after the close of 1870, and remarks upon them may more properly form matter for a Blue Book Report for 1871. I may, however, state that among the measures taken into consideration were the formation of Boards for the local management of roads throughout the Colony and the establishment of Municipal Councils in the various towns, thus leading the colonists, by local self-government in small matters, to become fitted for that more extended form of responsible Government, to assume which there are those who are already anxious.

Wants of the Colony.

7. There are two matters which for some time have appeared to me to be pressing wants: the Blue Book states facts as they are. It may be allowed, in a paper accompanying the Statistical Tables, to allude to wants that cannot be made to appear in such Tables. Steam communication between the various ports in the Colony, and a proper survey of the coast, are matters essential to the progress of the Colony.

**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA.***Steam Vessels on Coast.*

8. Western Australia is at present isolated simply for want of steam communication; there is ample intercolonial trade for moderate-sized coasting steamers, and the general attention drawn in the Eastern Colonies to the many resources now commencing to be developed would be increased tenfold but for the time lost and difficulty experienced in travelling throughout the Colony. It is not uncommon for a couple of months to pass by without receiving any communication from the far Northern or Eastern Settlements; and though the distance in either case by coasting steamer would be easily accomplished, the good that would result by a visit to these new ports by your Excellency must be postponed because, with the present means of locomotion, the time to accomplish such a matter cannot be spared.

Survey of Coasts.

9. Now that large vessels are sought to carry away the great amount of Jarrah timber for which freight is demanded, the evil of a coast line only partially surveyed, and improper and incorrect information in regard to the various anchorages, is very apparent. I may instance Geographe Bay, where there is as good anchorage and shelter as could reasonably be required, but information issued under Admiralty authority, and now known to be incorrect, causes the utmost difficulty in procuring vessels to visit it, agents and masters being afraid to vitiate insurance policies. I know of no instance of wreck or damage having occurred to any vessel visiting Geographe Bay, in which the head station of the Western Australian Timber Company is situate; and it is essential to the progress of the Company, and indeed to that of the community, that some steps should be taken to remove the prejudices that exist against that and other Western Australian ports. This is a matter not alone affecting the trade in this Colony, and if it is hopeless to expect assistance at Imperial cost, it would be desirable to adopt some such arrangement as that under which coast surveys have been carried out in the Eastern Colonies, the cost being borne partly by Imperial and partly by colonial funds.

Jarrah Timber.

10. The demand for Jarrah timber is greatly on the increase, the Company at Geographe Bay formed for exporting it have their mills erected and some ten miles of railway completed. They now profess to be ready to execute orders to any extent, and there is no probability that those orders will be wanting. The Melbourne Company, who propose to make their head-quarters at Rockingham, and to follow out the plan suggested by Mr. Doyne, C.E., have completed their arrangements and propose to commence operations without delay.

Immigration.

11. The great drawback to commencing any new undertaking in Western Australia is the difficulty experienced in procuring good labour.

The class of labour available is, in the majority of cases, of an exceedingly inferior kind: men of the convict class, who have never worked and who never will work if they can live by any other means.

Notwithstanding this difficulty, I do not conceive that it would at the present time be wise to take any steps to induce immigration on a large scale. The gradual employment of larger capital and the consequent demand for good labour at remunerative terms will probably do more to induce a supply from the Eastern Colonies, and those so coming would probably be content to remain, whereas the majority of immigrants direct from England are disappointed to find that fortunes are not at once to be commanded, and are uneasy till they migrate to Sydney or Melbourne, only to realize greater disappointment.

Pauperism.

12. The class of labour to which I have alluded leaves its burden on public funds in the shape of pauperism. The cost for the maintenance of paupers is daily on the increase, and forms a considerable item of expenditure. In one establishment in Perth there are at the present time 75 male inmates, a large majority of whom are ex-convicts, not one of whom will ever again do a day's work, and the entire cost of whose maintenance is borne by the Colony. This is one among many of the legacies of the convict system, regarding which it may be matter of considerable doubt whether the benefits or evils have predominated.

New Industries.

13. Though there have been many matters of depression of late, there is still a bright side of the picture, and it may be desirable to note the growing interest evinced in the cultivation of the vine and mulberry. For both these the soil and climate of the Colony are peculiarly suited, and there is now fair reason to believe they will be cultivated extensively.

Gold.

14. Some excitement was evinced during the past year on more than one occasion by the discovery of gold in small quantities over considerable tracts of country, and prospecting parties, more or less systematically organized, were started in various parts. For want of means, and probably experience, little was effected beyond the undoubted fact that gold existed, and in country the geological features of which were in many respects similar to the auriferous districts in Victoria. Since the close of the year, Mr. H. Y. L. Brown, the Government Geologist, has reported the discovery of a large patch of country north-east of Champion Bay, the rocks of which he reports to be identical with the gold-bearing rocks of Victoria, and he is now engaged in testing the opinions he has confidently formed as to the deposit of gold. Opinions from such a source carry weight with them, and as Mr. Brown is known to be a cautious man and a good geolo-

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gist, there are many anxiously awaiting his expected return about the end of the present month.

Ecclesiastical.

15. Reverting to Paragraph 5, it may be well to observe that the result of the Census showing a very material alteration in the numbers of the several religious denominations, it became necessary to revise the grants of public funds to the several ecclesiastical bodies. The predominance hitherto in some degree shown to the Church of England has been removed, and each denomination placed on the same footing. This was effected by the liberality of the Legislature in voting additional funds for those bodies whose number had increased; and thus it became unnecessary to take from one denomination to give to another. Moreover, the status, salary, and claims of each clergyman holding office at the time the change was made have been distinctly recognized by the Legislature.

* * * * *

Crime.

16. In the Supreme Court there were 46 prisoners convicted in 1870 as against 36 in 1869; the increased number is principally caused by the conviction of six aboriginal natives of murder *inter se*, and one of a grievous assault. Of convictions at Petty Sessions I am glad to report a reduction of nearly 1,000, the numbers being 4,561 in 1869, and 3,667 in 1870. The convictions for drunkenness alone were 600 less than in 1869, and this alone may be looked on as a matter for congratulation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FRED. P. BARLEE.

Governor Weld,
&c., &c.

NEW
ZEALAND.

No. 19.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 19.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

To the Honourable WILLIAM GISBORNE, Colonial Secretary, &c.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
January 5, 1872.

SIR,

IT having been determined that, in order to lay before the Parliament of the Colony, with the least possible delay, a considerable amount of statistical information which was immediately desired, certain principal results of the Census of New Zealand taken in February, 1871, as well as important portions of the general sta-

Previous publication of most of the information summarized in this Report.

tistics for the year ended December 31st, 1870, should be issued in separate divisions as speedily as they could be respectively got ready, several series of Tables relating to these subjects were presented, by his Excellency's command, to the General Assembly at successive periods of the late session. These, however, were not accompanied by any "Report" (unless a brief memorandum, prefixed to each division, describing its contents, might be called so), the intention then being that the usual formal and lengthened "Report" should be reserved for the publication of the completed Statistical volume. But as some further time will be required for the final compilations and the printing of portions of the matter to be comprehended in that volume, it is deemed expedient to issue a Report in anticipation, which it is hoped will be acceptable to many (especially to persons living out of, but feeling an interest in, the Colony) who may not have seen the Tables above referred to (which were issued as "Parliamentary Papers"), or who, in any case, would prefer summarized views and comments within a comparatively small compass, to the copious, and sometimes apparently complicated, details of the Tables themselves. Such a Report is that which I have the honour to offer in the following pages. It includes compendiously the substance of the information, both as to the Census results, with the Agricultural Statistics, in February, 1871, and the General Statistics for 1870, which has already been issued, with additional information on various matters from Tables compiled and corrected, but not yet printed.

Reason for
issue of the
present
Report.

PART I.

CENSUS, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1871.

The Census of the Colony had, since 1858, been taken (triennially) in the month of December; but on the late occasion it was judged expedient to postpone it until the end of February last, and then to take it under arrangements which comprehended also the collection of the agricultural statistics of New Zealand, required by the Census Acts Amendment Acts, 1867 and 1870, to be made annually, and for which collection the month of February is considered the most favourable time in this country. The night of the 27th February was fixed as that for which the enumeration of the people should be made.

Population.

The population of New Zealand at this date, as shown by the Census Returns (exclusive of aboriginal natives), was 256,393, of whom 150,356 were males, and 106,037 females.

Population of
Colony as
shown by
Census.

The distribution of this population through the principal divisions of the Colony was as follows:—Province of Auckland, males, 35,502; females, 26,833; total, 62,335: Province of Taranaki, males, 2,572; females, 1,908; total, 4,480: Province of Wellington, males, 13,180; females, 10,821; total, 24,001: Province of Hawke's Bay, males, 3,596; females 2,463; total, 6,059: Province of Nelson, males, 14,257; females, 8,244; total, 22,501: Province

Of each
province.

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of Marlborough, males, 3,235; females 2,000; total, 5,235: Province of Canterbury, males, 25,781; females, 21,020; total, 46,801: County of Westland, males, 10,453; females, 4,904; total, 15,357: Province of Otago (as before re-union with Southland),* males, 36,771; females, 23,951; total, 60,722: Province of Southland (as before re-union with Otago),* males, 4,920; females, 3,849; total, 8,769. To which is to be added the population of the Chatham Islands, namely, males, 89, females 44, total 133, to make up the general total as stated above. Thus it will be seen that the Northern Island (comprising the Provinces of Auckland, Taranaki, Wellington, and Hawke's Bay) contained 96,875 persons, or 37·78 per cent.; and the Middle Island (comprising the Provinces of Nelson, Marlborough, and Canterbury, the County of Westland, and the Province of Otago (including Southland), 159,518, or 62·22 per cent. of the whole population of the Colony.

Of the
Northern and
Middle
Islands
respectively.

Comparison
with Census
of December,
1867.

Comparing the numbers as ascertained by the last Census with those shown by the Census of December, 1867, there appears a net increase on the population of the Colony within that period (three years and nearly two months) of 37,725 persons, viz. 18,427 males, and 19,298 females, being 13·96 per cent. on males; 22·24 per cent. on females; and 17·25 per cent. on the total of persons.

The following was the increase or decrease within the period in each of the provinces (and the County of Westland):—

Auckland -	-	Numerical increase, 14,014, or 29·00 per cent.	
Taranaki -	-	" " 121, " 2·77	"
Wellington -	-	" " 2,051, " 9·34	"
Hawke's Bay -	-	" " 776, " 14·68	"
Nelson -	-	" decrease, 1,313, " 5·51	"
Marlborough -	-	" increase, 864, " 19·76	"
Canterbury -	-	" " 8,468, " 22·09	"
Westland -	-	" decrease, 176, " 1·13	"
Otago -	-	" increase, 12,145, " 25·00	"
Southland -	-	" " 826, " 10·39	"

Comparison
with previous
Censuses.

A comparative Table of population in December, 1858, December, 1861, December, 1864, December, 1867, and February, 1871, with the numerical and centesimal increase or decrease in each province in the respective periods, which was prepared for the Abstracts of Census Results laid before the General Assembly, may, I think, be advantageously introduced here, as it exhibits a large amount of information on this branch of the Statistics in a very condensed form.

Population of
towns.

The enumerators were instructed to arrange for separate returns of the population in the chief town of each province, and also in each town having a population amounting to 500, in February,

* "The Otago and Southland Union Act, 1870," came into operation on the 6th of October, 1870, but as the interval between this date and the taking of the Census was so short, it was deemed advisable in this instance (for purposes of comparison with former Censuses) to ascertain the information for the respective territories as before. It will be understood that the figures given for both together apply to the Province of Otago as it is now constituted.

CENSUS OF NEW ZEALAND, FEBRUARY, 1871.—No. II.

COMPARATIVE TABLE showing the POPULATION (exclusive of aboriginal natives) of the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND in December, 1858, December, 1861, December, 1864, December, 1867, and February, 1871; with the Numerical and Centesimal Increase or Decrease in each Province in the respective Periods 1858-61, 1861-64, 1864-67, and December, 1867, to February, 27, 1871.

Provinces.	Census.	POPULATION.			INCREASE OR DECREASE IN EACH PERIOD.					
		Males.	Females.	Total.	Numerical.			Centesimal.		
					M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
AUCKLAND - - -	1858	10,218	7,959	18,177	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	13,494	10,926	24,420	3,276	2,967	6,243	32.06	37.27	34.34
	1864	25,686	16,446	42,132	12,192	5,520	17,712	90.35	50.52	72.53
	1867	27,062	21,268	48,331	1,377	4,812	6,189	5.36	29.25	14.68
	1871	35,502	26,833	62,335	8,439	5,675	14,014	31.18	26.22	29.00
TARANAKI - - -	1858	1,414	1,236	2,650	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,169	875	2,044	der. 245	der. 361	der. 606	der. 17.32	der. 29.20	der. 22.86
	1864	2,872	1,502	4,374	1,703	627	2,330	145.69	71.65	113.99
	1867	2,528	1,631	4,159	der. 344	329	der. 15	der. 11.97	21.90	der. 0.34
	1871	2,572	1,908	4,480	44	77	121	1.74	4.20	2.77
WELLINGTON - - -	1858	6,524	5,229	11,753	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	6,626	5,940	12,566	102	711	813	1.56	13.69	6.91
	1864	8,342	6,645	14,987	1,716	705	2,421	25.89	11.68	19.26
	1867	12,401	9,549	21,950	4,059	2,904	6,963	48.65	43.70	46.46
	1871	13,180	10,321	24,001	779	1,272	2,051	6.28	13.32	9.34
HAWKE'S BAY - - -	1858	1,063	451	1,514	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	1,667	944	2,611	604	483	1,097	56.82	109.31	72.45
	1864	2,457	1,313	3,770	794	365	1,159	47.63	38.66	44.38
	1867	3,187	2,086	5,283	746	773	1,513	30.11	58.87	40.13
	1871	3,696	2,463	6,059	599	377	776	12.48	18.07	14.68
NELSON (including Marlborough in 1858) - - }	1858	5,208	4,069	9,272	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	5,337	4,615	9,952	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	6,706	5,204	11,910	1,369	589	1,958	25.65	12.76	19.67
	1867	16,426	7,389	23,814	9,719	2,185	11,904	144.92	41.98	99.94
	1871	14,257	8,244	22,501	der. 2,168	865	der. 1,313	der. 13.19	11.67	der. 5.61
MARLBOROUGH - - -	1861	1,503	796	2,299	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	4,052	1,487	5,539	2,529	591	3,120	168.26	86.80	140.06
	1867	2,736	1,636	4,371	der. 1,286	148	der. 1,148	der. 32.14	9.95	der. 20.80
	1871	3,235	2,000	5,235	499	365	864	18.23	22.32	19.76
CANTERBURY - - -	1858	5,301	3,666	8,967	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	8,939	7,101	16,040	3,638	3,435	7,073	68.62	93.69	79.87
	1864	18,931	13,345	32,276	9,992	6,244	16,236	111.77	87.93	101.22
(Exclusive of WESTLAND) }	1867	21,206	17,127	38,333	2,375	3,782	6,057	12.01	28.34	19.76
	1871	25,781	21,020	46,801	4,576	3,893	8,469	21.57	22.73	22.09
WESTLAND - - -	1867	11,877	3,656	15,533	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1871	10,463	4,904	15,367	der. 1,424	1,218	der. 176	der. 11.98	34.13	der. 1.13
OTAGO (including Southland in 1858) - - }	1858	3,904	3,091	6,995	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	21,161	6,002	27,163	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	32,692	16,327	49,019	11,531	10,325	21,856	51.49	172.02	80.46
	1867	29,773	18,804	48,577	der. 2,919	2,477	der. 442	der. 892	15.17	der. 0.93
(As before re-union with SOUTHLAND) - - }	1871	36,771	22,951	60,722	6,998	5,147	12,145	23.50	27.37	25.00
SOUTHLAND - - -	1861	1,139	737	1,876	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1864	4,806	3,279	8,085	3,667	2,542	6,209	321.94	344.91	330.97
	1867	4,600	3,343	7,943	der. 206	64	der. 142	der. 4.28	1.95	der. 1.76
(As before re-union with OTAGO) - - - }	1871	4,920	3,849	8,769	320	596	926	6.93	15.13	10.39
CHATHAM ISLANDS - -	1858	52	33	85	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	27	23	50	der. 25	der. 10	der. 35	der. 48.07	der. 30.30	der. 41.17
	1864	56	30	86	29	7	36	107.40	30.43	72.00
	1867	123	61	184	67	31	98	119.64	103.33	115.95
	1871	89	44	133	der. 34	der. 17	der. 51	der. 27.64	der. 27.86	der. 27.71
TOTALS FOR THE COLONY	1858	33,679	25,734	59,413	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1861	61,062	37,959	99,021	27,383	12,225	39,608	44.84	32.20	39.99
	1864	106,680	65,578	172,258	45,618	27,619	73,237	74.54	72.76	73.66
	1867	131,928	86,739	218,668	29,349	31,161	46,510	23.79	32.26	27.01
	1871	150,356	106,037	256,393	18,427	19,298	37,725	13.96	22.24	17.25

In every case in which there was a decrease, it has been marked ("der.") in the above Table.

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1871. This information is compendiously shown in the following Table:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Provinces of Auckland:—			
Auckland - - - - -	6,779	6,158	12,937
Parnell - - - - -	1,709	1,854	3,563
Newton - - - - -	1,977	1,980	3,957
Onehunga - - - - -	967	946	1,913
Shortland - - - - -	1,942	1,596	3,538
Grahamstown - - - - -	1,340	914	2,254
Province of Taranaki:—			
New Plymouth - - - - -	895	942	1,837
Province of Wellington:—			
Wellington - - - - -	4,052	3,856	7,908
Wanganui - - - - -	1,256	1,134	2,390
Province of Hawke's Bay:—			
Napier - - - - -	1,166	1,013	2,179
Province of Nelson:—			
Nelson - - - - -	2,728	2,806	5,534
Westport - - - - -	519	359	878
Cobden - - - - -	525	192	717
Charleston - - - - -	965	389	1,354
Province of Marlborough:—			
Picton - - - - -	367	269	636
Blenheim - - - - -	396	345	741
Province of Canterbury:—			
Christchurch - - - - -	4,016	3,915	7,931*
Lyttelton - - - - -	1,427	1,124	2,551
Kaiapoi - - - - -	442	426	868
Timaru - - - - -	729	689	1,418
Rangiora - - - - -	396	367	763
County of Westland:—			
Hokitika - - - - -	1,938	1,634	3,572
Greymouth - - - - -	1,252	929	2,181
Province of Otago:—			
Dunedin - - - - -	7,587	7,270	14,857
Port Chalmers - - - - -	824	582	1,406
Oamaru - - - - -	886	771	1,657
Province of Southland:—			
Invercargill - - - - -	964	996	1,960

* This is the population of what is described by the enumerator as "the city proper—that is, within the town belt;" but the aggregate population of Christchurch and its suburbs (as shown in the returns for the electoral districts of "City of Christchurch East" and "City of Christchurch West") was 12,406, viz. M., 6,286; F., 6,180.

Aboriginal
native
population.

An accurate Census of the aboriginal native population would no doubt be extremely interesting, were it practicable. But at present it is only possible to give an estimate more or less approximate of the numbers. Such an estimate (based upon various returns and other information) I have obtained from the Native Secretary's Office. According to it the total native population may be stated as about 37,502; viz., in the Northern Island 35,149, and in the Middle Island 2,353. The estimated native population in 1867 was 38,540.

Relative Proportions of Sexes.

Proportion of
the sexes in
the Colony.

The number of males in New Zealand (exclusive of aboriginal natives) was, according to the Census of February 1871, 150,356, or 58·64 per cent., and the number of females 106,037, or 41·36 per cent. of the whole population. The following figures will show for each province separately the centesimal proportions of males and

females respectively to the population of the province, and the centesimal excess of males in each province:—

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Province.	Males.	Females.	Centesimal excess of Males.
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
Auckland - - - - -	56·95	43·05	13·90
Taranaki - - - - -	57·41	42·59	14·82
Wellington - - - - -	54·91	45·09	9·82
Hawke's Bay - - - - -	59·35	40·65	18·70
Nelson - - - - -	63·36	36·64	26·72
Marlborough - - - - -	61·79	38·21	23·58
Canterbury - - - - -	55·08	44·92	10·16
Westland (County) - - - - -	68·06	31·94	36·12
Otago - - - - -	60·56	39·44	21·12
Southland - - - - -	56·11	43·89	12·22
Averages for the Colony -	58·64	41·36	17·28

On comparison with previous Censuses on this interesting matter, it is found that the excess of males in 1858 was 13·36 per cent.; in 1861 it was 23·34, and in 1864, 23·82, the remarkable increase, as compared with 1858, being to a considerable extent explained by the great influx of miners to the gold-fields of the Colony, very many of whom were unmarried, or had left their wives and families in other countries. It is gratifying to observe that, notwithstanding the continuance of this element of disparity, the Census of 1867 showed some tendency towards an equalization of the numbers of the sexes, the excess of males being reduced to 20·66, while the late Census (February, 1871) shows a further reduction of this excess to 17·28.

Proportions in
previous
Census years.

Civil or Conjugal Condition of the People.

The last Census shows the following totals for the Colony: married males, 39,759, being 15·51 per cent on the whole population, and 26·44 per cent. on the total number of males; married females, 38,132, being 14·87 per cent. on the whole population, and 35·96 per cent. on the total number of females; unmarried males (including widowers and male children), 108,274, being 42·23 per cent. on the whole population, and 72·01 per cent. on the total number of males; unmarried females (including widows and female children), 67,631, being 26·38 per cent. on the whole population, and 63·78 per cent. on the total number of females. The numbers of widowers and widows included are 2,840 widowers and 3,229 widows. The numbers "not stated" (with regard to whom no information as to "condition" was obtained) was 2,597; viz. 2,323 males, and 274 females.

Proportions of
married and
unmarried.

If we deduct from the totals of "unmarried," the persons under fifteen years of age, the numbers remaining are: males, 57,088; females, 17,468. The proportions between the sexes from the age of fifteen and upwards is thus shown to be 76·57 per cent. of males, and 23·43 per cent. of females. The proportions in 1867 were 79·39 per cent. of males, and 20·61 per cent. of females.

Proportions
aged fifteen
and upwards.

The information thus arrived at may be expressed otherwise as follows:—Of every 100 of the total male population 26·44 per cent.

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were married, and 37·97 aged 15 and upwards, with 34·04 under 15, were unmarried (there being 1·55 whose "condition" was not stated); and of every 100 of the total female population 35·96 were married, and 16·47, aged 15 and upwards, with 47·31 under 15, were unmarried, there being 0·26 whose "condition" was not stated.

Dwellings of the People.

**Numbers of
dwellings.**

The total number of inhabited houses or dwellings in the Colony in February, 1871, was 57,182, against 54,015 in December, 1867, being an increase of 3,167 within the period. A classification of these dwellings, according to numbers of rooms, shows that there were, in 1871, 11,949 of six rooms and upwards, against 9,861 in 1867; of five rooms, in 1871, 4,497 against 3,543 in 1867; of four rooms, in 1871, 10,200 against 7,844 in 1867; of three rooms, in 1871, 7,538 against 6,209 in 1867; and of one or two rooms (in which tents are included), 22,998 in 1871, against 26,558 in 1867. The number of tents (principally found in the gold-fields districts) included in 1871 was 2,404, against 4,595 in 1867. The decrease in the general total of the lowest class of dwellings is shown by the above figures to have been much more than covered by the increase in the general total of dwellings of a higher and better description.

**Numbers of
rooms.**

Materials.

A classification of the materials of which the dwellings were constructed shows the following results:—Wood, 45,951 in 1871, against 38,844 in 1867; stone or brick, 1,540 against 1,182 in 1867; and other materials (including raupo houses and the tents above referred to), 9,691 against 13,989 in 1867.

**Dwellings in
respective
provinces.**

Taking the provinces separately, the following were the numbers and materials of the (inhabited) dwellings in each, viz.:—Auckland, 13,667: viz. wood, 12,321; stone or brick, 293; other materials, 1,053. Taranaki, 987: viz. wood, 854; stone or brick, 1; other materials, 132. Wellington, 4,779: viz. wood, 4,484; stone or brick, 18; other materials, 277. Hawke's Bay, 1,215: viz. wood 1,130; stone or brick, 2; other materials, 83. Nelson, 5,819: viz. wood, 4,345; stone or brick, 31; other materials, 1,443. Marlborough, 1,012: viz. wood, 816; stone or brick, 2; other materials, 194. Canterbury, 8,747: viz. wood, 6,725; stone or brick, 236; other materials, 1,786. Westland (Co.), 5,457: viz. wood, 5,003; stone or brick, 0; other materials, 454. Otago, 13,732: viz. wood, 8,699; stone or brick, 923; other materials, 4,140. Southland, 1,731: viz. wood, 1,590; stone or brick, 32; other materials, 109.

**Proportion of
population to
each dwelling.**

The proportion of the population to each dwelling, calculated on the Census Returns of the respective years, was 4·48 in 1871, against 4·04 in 1867.

**Uninhabited
houses.**

The sub-enumerators were furnished with special forms for returns of uninhabited houses and houses building in their respective sub-districts. But on this, as on previous occasions, some uncertainty attaches to the part of these results relating to uninhabited houses, it being evident that while in several instances they include stores, shops, offices, &c., which were occupied during the daytime (only),

in many other instances there were not any means of accurately ascertaining from them whether or not such buildings were counted as "uninhabited." The aggregate number so returned was in 1871, 7,347 against 6,727 in 1867. The number of "houses building" at the time of the Census in 1871 was 642 (of which 508 were to be of wood, 64 of stone or brick, and 70 of other materials), against 702 in December, 1867 (viz. 550 of wood, 51 of stone or brick, and 101 of other materials).

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Houses
building.

Places of Birth.

The information supplied by the Census of 1871 with respect to the places of birth of the population is shown compendiously in the subjoined tabular view, which includes a comparison with the Census of 1867, exhibiting the numbers of the population born in each of the countries specified, the increase or decrease (numerical and proportionate) in 1871, and the proportion per cent. of each nationality to the totals of the population of the Colony at the respective dates:—

PLACES OF BIRTH.

Places of Birth.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1871.		Proportion per cent. of each Nationality, to the respective Totals of Population.	
	1867.	1871.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1867.	1871.
England - - - -	65,614	67,044	<i>I.</i> 1,430	<i>I.</i> 2·17	30·01	26·15
Ireland - - - -	27,955	29,793	<i>I.</i> 1,778	<i>I.</i> 6·36	12·78	11·60
Scotland - - - -	34,826	36,871	<i>I.</i> 2,045	<i>I.</i> 5·86	15·93	14·38
Wales - - - -	1,319	1,345	<i>I.</i> 26	<i>I.</i> 1·97	0·60	0·52
New Zealand - - -	64,052	93,474	<i>I.</i> 29,422	<i>I.</i> 45·93	29·29	36·46
Australian Colonies - -	11,313	12,426	<i>I.</i> 1,113	<i>I.</i> 9·83	5·17	4·85
Other British Dominions -	3,798	4,062	<i>I.</i> 264	<i>I.</i> 6·95	1·74	1·58
United States of America -	1,213	1,249	<i>I.</i> 36	<i>I.</i> 2·96	0·56	0·49
France - - - -	553	551	<i>D.</i> 2	<i>D.</i> 0·36	0·25	0·22
Germany - - - -	2,838	2,416	<i>D.</i> 422	<i>D.</i> 14·86	1·30	0·94
Other foreign countries (including China) - - }	3,667	5,859	<i>I.</i> 2,192	<i>I.</i> 59·77	1·68	2·28
At sea - - - -	751	823	<i>I.</i> 72	<i>I.</i> 9·58	0·34	0·32
Not specified - - - -	769	540	<i>D.</i> 229	<i>D.</i> 29·77	0·35	0·21
	218,668	256,393	<i>I.</i> 37,725	<i>I.</i> 17·25	100·00	100·00

Occupations.

As on former similar occasions, the result of much labour in this office has not been to attain means of presenting satisfactorily the occupations of the people in the detailed modes of classification published in some other countries. I may repeat what I stated on this subject in my Report on the Census of 1867:—"The difficulties, which I have previously more than once pointed out continue to impede any attempt to tabulate this branch of the Census information in New Zealand without incurring the risk of showing conclusions which would almost certainly be misleading in effect, however close may be their merely verbal accordance with the household schedules. Amongst the causes of this difficulty continue to be the great number of cases in which settlers follow more than

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"one occupation; the instances (probably frequent) in which they enter in the schedules the professions or callings to which they were brought up, or with which they would prefer to be identified (perhaps from a notion of their superior 'respectability') rather than those in which they are most habitually engaged, or from which they principally derive their maintenance; the vagueness of many of the descriptions; and the different names given to what may be regarded as really the same business." The Tables containing the results of the compilation which has been made are not yet printed, and will undergo some further examination; but the following summary (prepared on the plan of summaries introduced in former Reports) will give a general view of the proportions in which the colonists are engaged in the chief employments and pursuits, including a comparison with the respective numbers in 1867:—

Occupations.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1871.		Proportions of Occupations to the Population.	
	1867.	1871.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1867.	1871.
Trade, commerce, and manufactures - - - - -	10,194	11,079	I. 885	I. 8.68	4.66	4.32
Agricultural and pastoral - - - - -	18,863	20,587	I. 1,724	I. 9.13	8.63	8.03
Mechanics, artificers, and skilled workers - - - - -	13,695	16,026	I. 2,331	I. 17.01	6.26	6.25
Mining - - - - -	20,372	21,226	I. 854	I. 4.24	9.32	8.28
Professions, clerical, medical, and legal - - - - -	733	846	I. 113	I. 15.43	0.33	0.33
Teachers, surveyors, and other educated professions - - - - -	1,477	1,937	I. 460	I. 31.14	0.67	0.76
Labourers - - - - -	13,025	14,312	I. 1,287	I. 9.88	5.96	5.58
Domestic and general servants - - - - -	7,259	7,017	D. 242	D. 3.33	3.32	2.74
Miscellaneous - - - - -	10,420	11,913	I. 1,493	I. 14.32	4.77	4.65
Domestic duties, or no occupation stated (principally women and children) - - - - -	122,630	151,450	I. 28,820	I. 23.50	56.08	59.06
	218,668	256,393	I. 37,725	I. 17.25	100.00	100.00

Religious Denominations.

Basis of
compilation.

The list of "religious bodies" in Schedule D. of "The Marriage Act, 1854" (as amended by "The Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1867") has, as heretofore, been made the basis of the compilation of the Census results relating to religious denominations in 1871. To the columns for the bodies specified in that list has been added one for the large number (4,852, or 1.90 of the population of the Colony) returned as "Protestants" without any more distinctive designation. An altogether new column has now been rendered necessary by "The Census Acts Amendment Act, 1870," which provided that when any person objects to state whether he belongs to any or what religious denomination, he may enter the word "object" in the Census form. The number of persons returned as availing themselves of this permission was 8,630, or 3.36 per cent. of the whole population.

Persons who
"object" to
state any
denomination.

The number of 6,097 "otherwise described," includes 2,612

returned as "Pagans, Chinese, or Heathen;" and, in addition to these, a very large variety of entries which could not be brought under any of the specified headings, and which cannot be dealt with until the final completion of the Table (not yet printed).

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The number "not described" in any way as to religious denomination was 862—a marked diminution from the number (1,752) shown in 1867.

Not described.

In the subjoined summary will be found figures for 1871 compared with those for 1867, showing for each of those years the numbers of the population returned as belonging to each of the principal denominations; the increase or decrease on each in 1871, both numerically and centesimally; and the centesimal proportion of each denomination to the total population of the Colony in the respective years:—

Denomination.	Population.		Increase or Decrease in 1871.		Proportions to total Population.	
	1867.	1871.	Numerical.	Proportionate.	1867.	1871.
Church of England - -	92,990	102,389	<i>I.</i> 9,399	<i>I.</i> 10·10	42·53	39·93
Presbyterian Church - -	54,929	63,624	<i>I.</i> 8,695	<i>I.</i> 15·83	25·12	24·82
Roman Catholic Church -	30,413	35,608	<i>I.</i> 5,195	<i>I.</i> 17·08	13·91	13·89
Wesleyan Methodist Church	16,669	19,971	<i>I.</i> 3,302	<i>I.</i> 19·81	7·62	7·79
Congregational Independents	4,246	3,941	<i>D.</i> 305	<i>D.</i> 7·48	1·94	1·54
Baptists - - - -	4,353	4,732	<i>I.</i> 379	<i>I.</i> 8·70	1·99	1·84
Primitive Methodists - -	1,332	1,883	<i>I.</i> 551	<i>I.</i> 41·36	0·61	0·73
Lutheran Church - -	2,383	2,341	<i>D.</i> 42	<i>D.</i> 1·76	1·09	0·91
Hebrews - - - -	1,247	1,262	<i>I.</i> 15	<i>I.</i> 1·20	0·57	0·50
Society of Friends - -	146	201	<i>I.</i> 55	<i>I.</i> 37·67	0·07	0·08
Protestants (no particular denomination specified) -	3,902	4,852	<i>I.</i> 950	<i>I.</i> 24·34	1·78	1·98
Otherwise described - -	4,306	6,097	<i>I.</i> 1,791	<i>I.</i> 41·59	1·97	2·38
Not described - - -	1,752	862	<i>D.</i> 890	<i>D.</i> 50·79	0·80	0·33
Objecting to state - - -	—	8,630	—	—	—	3·36
	218,668	256,393	<i>I.</i> 37,725	<i>I.</i> 17·25	100·00	100·00

Education.

The following general results relating to this most important subject are shown by the Census Returns in 1871:—Of the whole population of the Colony, of both sexes and all ages, there were unable to read or write 58,401, or 23·30 per cent., against 45,411, or 21·40 per cent., in 1867; able to read only 18,810, or 7·50 per cent., against 15,396, or 7·25 per cent., in 1867; and able both to read and write, 173,459, or 69·20 per cent., against 151,431, or 71·35 per cent., in 1867; to which are added 5,723 respecting whose state as to education the schedules contained no information. Deducting these, it appears that, of the population under fifteen years of age, there were able to read or write 32,326, viz. 16,460 males, and 15,866 females; and of the population aged fifteen and upwards, 141,133, viz. 90,297 males, and 50,836 females. The centesimal proportions are as follows:—Under fifteen years of age, cannot read, males, 53·91 per cent.; females, 54·23 per cent.; read only, males, 13·27 per cent.; females, 13·50 per cent.; read and write,

Numbers and proportions able or unable to read or write.

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males, 32·82 per cent.; females, 32·27 per cent. Fifteen years and upwards, cannot read, males, 3·08 per cent.; females, 3·14 per cent.; read only, males, 2·74 per cent.; females, 5·21 per cent.; read and write, males, 94·18 per cent.; females, 91·65 per cent. Both sexes and all ages, cannot read, 23·30 per cent. against 21·40 in 1867; read only, 7·50 per cent. against 7·25 in 1867; read and write, 69·20 per cent. against 71·35 in 1867.

Schools.

The subjoined summary shows the numbers returned as attending schools—day, or Sunday, or both—in February, 1871, as compared with the numbers in December, 1867:—

Provinces.	At Day Schools.				At Sunday Schools.			
	Supported by Government aid.		Private, or not receiving Government aid.		At Sunday only.		At both Day and Sunday.	
	1867.	1871.	1867.	1871.	1867.	1871.	1867.	1871.
Auckland - - -	571	1,349	3,258	6,146	1,353	2,091	2,584	5,071
Taranaki - - -	181	163	351	391	194	234	402	365
Wellington - - -	970	888	1,793	2,307	668	974	1,438	1,829
Hawke's Bay - - -	186	405	162	376	60	109	186	416
Nelson - - -	1,668	2,371	650	560	402	407	1,552	2,142
Marlborough - - -	238	232	111	182	81	184	298	294
Canterbury - - -	2,178	2,796	2,297	2,773	1,298	1,654	3,048	3,984
Westland (County) (in- cluded with Canter- bury in 1867) - - -	—	201	—	943	—	365	—	1,022
Otago - - -	2,298	6,243	1,546	2,312	734	1,278	2,922	5,316
Southland - - -	73	215	471	767	220	288	385	628
Totals - - -	9,313	14,958	10,630	16,757	5,010	7,534	12,765	21,067

"School
going" ages.

The nearest approach to what may be considered the "school-going period," which is derivable from the Census Returns, is that shown by the numbers between five and fifteen years of age. Within those ages the population in 1871 amounted to 54,771; and the numbers returned as attending day schools to 31,710, being a proportion of 57·89 per cent. on that total, against 47·74 per cent. on the total (41,793) in 1867. Dividing the number within the specified ages, according to the sexes, of the total of males in 1871 (27,817), there were 16,436, or 59·08 per cent. attending day schools, against 48·87 per cent. in 1867; and of the total of females in 1871 (26,954) there were 15,274, or 56·66 per cent. against 46·55 per cent. in 1867. Taking the aggregate population of all ages under fifteen (which in 1871 amounted to 101,949 persons), the proportion attending day schools in 1871 was 31·28, against 25·20 in 1867.

General
conclusions.

The returns (although the entries in the household schedules may have been sometimes defective, or not clear, as to the distinction between different classes of schools), yet satisfactorily bring out the conclusions that in 1871 there were at least 31,710 scholars attending schools (public or private) in the Colony, against 19,952 in 1867; and that (including those attending Sunday schools only, and those attending both day and Sunday schools) there were 28,601 receiving Sunday school instruction in 1871, against 17,778 in 1867. The numbers of those receiving education at home cannot, of course, be

exhibited in these or any similar returns; but to repeat, as equally applicable now, a sentence in the Report for 1867, "the existence, extent, and value of home education in New Zealand should never be lost sight of or treated as unimportant in any comprehensive estimate of the means in operation for the intellectual and moral training of the youth of the Colony."

Land and Crops.

A large amount of information relating to land in occupation, cultivations, and crops was obtained by the almost simultaneous taking of the Census, and collection of the agricultural statistics under the provisions of the Census Acts Amendment Acts, 1867 and 1870. The details must necessarily be found only in the copious Tables, some of which have already been issued as Parliamentary Papers, and the whole of which will appear in the Statistical Volume. Such a general view as can be introduced here is subjoined. It will be understood that the land and cultivations of aboriginal natives are not included.

The extent of holdings in the Colony in February, 1871, was returned as 22,774,498 acres (against 18,762,057 acres in December, 1867), viz.: freehold, 5,647,888 acres (against 5,068,440 acres in 1867), and leasehold, 17,126,660 acres in 1871 (against 13,693,617 acres in 1867). In the returns for 1871 a distinction was made between "leasehold land, including Crown land rented for other than pastoral purposes," which amounted to 2,260,603 acres, and "Crown land rented for pastoral purposes only," which amounted to 14,866,057 acres.

Extent of
holdings,
freehold and
leasehold.

The total number of acres fenced was 6,778,773, against 3,455,588 in 1867. Here also a distinction was introduced in the returns for 1871 between "land fenced not including movable fencing of wire or other material," of which there were 2,806,556 acres; and "wire or other movable fencing," of which there were 3,972,217 acres.

Land fenced.

The quantity of land broken up but not under crop, was, in 1871, 116,204 acres, against 94,311 acres in 1867.

Land broken
up, but not
under crop.

The total quantity of land under crop, as shown by the Census of 1871 (including sown grasses) was, 1,042,042 acres, against 676,909 acres in 1867. In this total were, 77,082 acres of wheat, against 47,786 acres in 1867; 123,135 acres of oats, against 101,563 acres in 1867; 23,071 acres of barley, against 13,136 acres in 1867; 12,901 acres of potatoes, against 14,372 acres in 1867; 776,402 acres of sown grasses, against 472,893 acres in 1867. In other crops there were 29,450 acres, against 27,159 acres in 1867.

Land under
crop.

So much information with regard to the distribution of these cultivations and crops in the different divisions of the Colony is contained in a condensed form, in the Table which was numbered XI. in the Abstracts of Census Results laid before the General Assembly, that I think it will be advantageous to introduce it here; together with a Table (A), issued as a Summary of the Agricultural Statistics of 1871, compared with 1870, which contains (what is not to be found in the other returns) the estimated produce, so far as the principal crops are concerned, in the several provinces in the respective years.

CENSUS OF NEW ZEALAND,

TABLE showing the EXTENT of HOLDINGS; the NUMBER of ACRES FENCED; the QUANTITY of description of crop, in the COLONY of NEW ZEALAND (exclusive of the land and cultivations

	EXTENT OF HOLDING.			LAND FENCED.		NUMBER OF ACRES.		
	Number of Acres.			Number of Acres.		Land broken up but not under Crop.	In Wheat.	In Oats.
	Freehold.	Leasehold (including Crown Land rented for other than Pastoral purposes).	Crown Land rented for Pastoral purposes only.	Not including Movable Fencing of Wire or other Material.	Wire or other Movable Fencing.			
Province of Auckland - -	880,363	836,474	97,922	256,024	8,157	13,990	1,123	2,566
" Taranaki - -	57,587	20,732	361	24,774	2,428	1,323	779	433
" Wellington - -	822,692	330,108	123,879	302,462	106,805	8,494	1,920	3,364
" Hawke's Bay - -	833,460	402,587	570,753	143,178	241,823	5,061	623	513
" Nelson - -	640,818	159,350	384,021	159,986	360,129	5,948	2,548	4,075
" Marlborough - -	648,364	68,416	904,225	29,682	274,852	2,673	1,417	1,169
" Canterbury - -	557,185	364,418	5,106,190	482,551	1,392,968	41,527	46,599	44,744
County of Westland - -	4,316	2,637	9,797	901	1,237	243	1	126
Province of Otago (as before union with Southland) - }	729,427	301,262	6,099,921	748,781	1,319,055	29,408	20,713	54,584
Province of Southland (as before union with Otago) - }	500,576	73,360	1,437,188	658,317	255,290	8,537	1,341	10,344
Chatham Islands - -	6,050	1,899	132,800	—	9,473	—	9	?
Totals - - -	5,647,838	2,260,603	14,866,057	2,806,556	3,972,217	116,204	77,082	123,135

* The "Totals under Crop" in each line differ from the correct addition of the preceding figures by the numbers including

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS OF

(Taken separately under the provisions of the

TABLE A.—ACCOUNT of LAND, of the EXTENT of ONE ACRE or upwards, in CULTIVATION, and February, 1871; with a Comparison (so far as it can be

	Numbers of Holdings.*	IN WHEAT.		IN OATS.	
		Acres (Sown for Grain only).	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres (Sown for Grain only).	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).
Province of Auckland - - 1871	1,864	1,082	15,562‡	1,772‡	31,393‡
" " - - 1870	—	1,544	25,966	1,413	23,263
Province of Taranaki - - 1871	245	872	15,788	433‡	9,857‡
" " - - 1870	—	1,031‡	19,185	251‡	5,466
Province of Wellington - - 1871	1,041	1,868‡	41,408	3,427‡	89,106
" " - - 1870	—	2,350	55,082‡	3,019‡	87,919‡
Province of Hawke's Bay - - 1871	269	638	14,866	837‡	23,333
" " - - 1870	—	1,079	25,066	829‡	21,440
Province of Nelson - - 1871	925	2,695‡	39,607‡	3,424‡	75,967‡
" " - - 1870	—	3,123‡	56,522	2,323	56,093
Province of Marlborough - - 1871	226	1,800‡	33,994	1,313‡	36,737
" " - - 1870	—	2,724‡	58,963	965‡	28,572
Province of Canterbury - - 1871	2,526	46,073‡	1,016,266	44,370	1,311,801
" " - - 1870	—	52,425‡	1,461,953‡	39,951‡	1,326,880‡
County of Westland - - 1871	109	1	30	34	2,390
" " - - 1870	—	—	—	15‡	451
Province of Otago (as before union with Southland) - }	2,446	21,401‡	606,820‡	55,580‡	1,871,631
" " " 1870	—	20,861	615,775	42,404	1,519,415
Province of Southland (as before union with Otago) - }	570	1,410	49,225	10,636‡	341,457‡
" " " 1870	—	1,023‡	32,501	8,302‡	238,082
Totals for the Colony - 1871	10,211	77,843‡	1,833,547‡	121,829‡	3,802,729
" " " 1870	—	86,162‡	2,349,914	99,475‡	3,329,586

* The numbers of holdings shown in the Agricultural Statistics for 1870 are omitted here, as there could be no fair under the crops specified in the headings of the collecting forms for 1871, viz. wheat, oats, barley, hay, and potatoes, which in the present year more full and detailed information was to be obtained by the General Census.

† This information was required for the first time in February, 1871, under the provisions of "The Census Act

FEBRUARY, 1871—No. XI.

LAND BROKEN UP, but not under CROP; and the respective NUMBERS of ACRES under each of aboriginal natives), as ascertained by a Census taken for the night of the 27th February, 1871.

NUMBER OF ACRES.

In Barley.	In Maize or Sorghum.	In Rye or Bere.	In Hay (mown or unmown).	In Sown Grasses (including Land in Hay.)	In Peas or Beans.	In Potatoes.	In Turnips or Rape.	In Mangold, Beet, Carrots, Parsnips, or Onions.	In Garden or Orchard.	In Tobacco.	In any other Crop.	Total under Crop.*	In Forest Trees (Plantations of).
199	1,456	539	6,612	173,751	87	3,831	127	175	2,779	21½	284	186,920	126
161	216	22	415	20,643	5	534	48	32	308	½	65	23,247	4
740	22	9	4,049	184,245	242	976	39	38	1,283	1½	15	192,914	542
222	52	23	3,137	62,218	23	362	31	76	441	—	68	64,952	265
1,201	20	85	4,166	37,432	435	1,030	515	80	1,490	½	212	49,124	1,092
1,922	2	30	1,176	15,914	146	208	7	9	322	55½	45	21,247	105
13,888	89	555	10,765	142,068	1,547	2,059	2,059	930	2,688	3	535	257,793	1,307
—	—	17	219	826	4	259	23	25	245	—	17	1,543	—
3,600	92	1,311	6,892	105,445	278	2,919	3,150	317	2,056	2½	443	195,211	469
1,138	—	13	1,464	33,555	25	664	599	20	423	—	2	48,724	80
—	—	—	8	305	—	29	—	—	17	—	—	367	—
23,071	1,949	2,604	38,903	776,402	2,792	12,901	6,598	1,702	12,052	66½	1,686	1,042,042	3,990

under the heading "Hay (mown or unmown)," which are again given in the figures under the heading "Sown Grasses Land in Hay."

NEW ZEALAND, FEBRUARY, 1871.

Census Acts Amendment Acts, 1867 and 1870.)

of the PRODUCE thereof (so far as the undermentioned CROPS are concerned), in NEW ZEALAND, (shown) with the Agricultural Statistics in February, 1870.

IN BARLEY.		IN HAY.		IN POTATOES.		QUANTITY OF LAST YEAR'S CROP REMAINING ON HAND WHEN FORMS WERE FILLED UP.†		
Acres (Sown for Grain only).	Estimated Gross Produce (in bushels).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	Acres.	Estimated Gross Produce (in tons).	Wheat (bushels).	Oats (bushels).	Barley (bushels).
135	3,090½	6,062½	5,892½	3,301½	15,640	331	248	10
122	2,448	4,405	5,528	3,796	19,653	—	—	—
163	3,139	351	442	432	2,036½	—	—	—
128½	2,654	289½	378½	638½	3,412½	—	—	—
723½	19,970	3,268½	4,802	770½	5,074	3,356	2,341	117
632½	15,169	3,554	5,770½	983	6,588½	—	—	—
249½	5,642	2,138½	3,423	330	2,108½	678	363	209
373½	8,670	1,672½	2,536½	413	2,184	—	—	—
1,247½	28,063	4,066½	5,388	984½	5,600½	1,297	1,288	2,487
1,271½	33,170	2,359½	3,019½	1,048	5,622	—	—	—
2,421½	63,962	1,204	1,374	191½	934	5,483	564	4,125
2,230½	59,819	689	879½	255½	1,373½	—	—	—
13,189½	308,908½	9,503½	12,205½	1,552½	7,135½	31,668	23,513	29,197
16,063½	504,475½	8,275½	11,158½	1,847½	10,670½	—	—	—
—	—	307	524	139	901	—	—	—
2	20	97½	214	231	1,325	—	—	—
3,676	109,028	5,596½	10,031	2,628½	13,616½	39,581	29,302	46,339
5,743	202,113	4,293	6,328	2,950	16,107	—	—	—
1,060½	35,846	1,820½	2,570½	571½	2,992½	2,697	2,074½	6,279
2,004½	61,288	1,200½	1,476	544½	2,667	—	—	—
22,866½	577,667	34,318½	46,652½	10,900½	56,039½	85,091	59,693½	89,763
28,572	889,826½	28,836½	37,189	12,806½	69,603	—	—	—

Comparison between them and the numbers shown in the returns for the present year, which only give the holdings omitting those under grass not for hay, and "Other Crops" which were included in the returns for 1870, and respecting

Amendment Act, 1870."

NEW
ZEALAND.

Annual Production of Butter and Cheese.

The annual production of butter in the Colony, according to the Returns of February, 1871, was 5,199,072 lbs., against 3,834,252 lbs., in 1867; and of cheese, 2,547,507 lbs., against 1,300,082 lbs. in 1867.

Agricultural Machines.

The numbers of agricultural machines in the Colony were ascertained to be, in 1871, as follow:—Threshing machines, 745, viz steam, 177; water, 39; horse, 529, against 579 (92 steam, 17 water, 470 horse) in 1867; reaping machines, 1,708, against 736 in 1867; and steam ploughs 26, against 12 in 1867.

Live Stock.

Aggregate
number.

The aggregate number of live stock of all kinds (excepting poultry) in 1871 was 10,382,540, against 8,924,520 in 1867.

Numbers of
principal
kinds.

Taking the principal kinds of live stock separately, the numbers were—horses, 81,078 in 1871, against 65,615 in 1867; cattle, 436,592 in 1871, against 312,835 in 1867; sheep, 9,700,629 in 1871, against 8,418,579 in 1867; and pigs, 151,460 in 1871, against 115,104 in 1867.

PART II.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1870.

In the remaining portion of this Report it is proposed to present briefly the principal points of information shown in detail in the Tables relating to the General Statistics of New Zealand for the year 1870, which have been above referred to as laid before the Colonial Legislature, and which, with a number of other Tables not yet published, will be included in the forthcoming Statistical Volume.

Immigration and Emigration.

Immigration.

The immigration (over seas) to New Zealand in 1870 amounted to 9,124 persons, of whom 6,178 were males, and 2,946 females. Of the males 5,508 were adults, and 670 children; of the females 2,400 were adults, and 546 children.

Emigration.

The emigration (over seas) from the Colony amounted to 5,547 persons, of whom 4,203 were males, and 1,344 females. Of the males 3,838 were adults, and 365 children; of the females 1,040 were adults, and 304 children.

Net excess.

The net excess of immigration over emigration in 1870 was 3,577 being 64 less than the net excess in 1869.

Taking the divisions of the Colony separately, the excesses of immigration over emigration in 1870 were: In the Province of Auckland, 360; in the Province of Wellington, 178; in the Province of Nelson, 143; in the Province of Canterbury, 1,286; in the Province of Otago, 1,638; and in the Province of Southland, 26. On

the other hand, in the county of Westland, the emigration was 54 in excess of the immigration.

The following figures show the immigration and emigration in 1870 classified according to the countries from which the immigrants arrived, and to which the emigrants went:—

NEW
ZEALAND,
Countries.

IMMIGRATION.				EMIGRATION.			
Countries.	M.	F.	Total.	Countries.	M.	F.	Total.
United Kingdom	2,266	1,749	4,015	United Kingdom	384	212	596
Australian Colonies	3,517	1,126	4,643	Australian Colonies	3,266	1,008	4,274
Other British ports	9	1	10	Other British ports	9	4	13
Foreign States	386	70	456	Foreign States	544	120	664

From these figures it will seen that the excess of immigration over emigration, viewed in relation to countries, was: United Kingdom, 3,419, and Australian Colonies, 369. While, on the other hand, there was an excess of emigration over immigration to other British ports and foreign etates, amounting to 211.

Births and Deaths.

The total number of births registered in New Zealand during the year 1870 was 10,277—viz. 5,240 males, and 5,037 females. The total in 1869 was 9,718—viz. 4,875 males, and 4,843 females. The increase in 1870 was therefore 559—viz. 365 males, and 194 females. The returns, it will be remembered, show, not the births which have actually occurred, but the births which have been registered during the specified periods.

The total number of deaths registered in 1870 was 2,703—viz. 1,595 males, and 1,108 females. The total in 1869 was 2,721—viz. 1,683 males, and 1,038 females. There appears, therefore, in 1870, as compared with 1869, a decrease of 18 on the whole number of persons—viz. a decrease of 88 on the males, and an increase of 70 on the females.

Of the deaths in 1870, 956 (viz. 523 males and 433 females) were under one year of age; 178 (viz. 74 males, and 104 females) one and under two years; 154 (viz. 75 males, and 79 females) two and under five years; making a total of 1,288 (viz. 672 males, and 616 females) or 47·65 per cent. of the whole, under five years.

The general total of deaths includes 117 (viz. 101 males, and 16 females), or 4·32 per cent. of the whole, from drowning, and 142 (viz. 124 males, and 18 females), or 5·25 per cent. of the whole, from various other external causes; making a total of 259 (viz. 225 males, and 34 females) from such causes, being 9·58 per cent. of the deaths during the year.

The proportions of births and deaths to every thousand persons living in each of the last eleven years are shown approximately in the following Table.

These figures show, for 1870, one birth to every twenty-three and a half, and one death to every ninety persons living. The average

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ZEALAND.

for the eleven years is one birth to every twenty-four, and one death to every seventy-six persons.

Year.	Estimated Population at Middle of Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.	
		No. Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.	No. Registered in Year.	Ratio per 1,000 Living.
1860	76,390	3,146	41·18	1,091	14·28
1861	89,323	3,441	38·52	1,109	12·41
1862	112,416	4,064	36·15	1,231	10·95
1863	144,930	5,113	35·29	1,963	13·68
1864	168,833	6,501	38·50	2,921	17·30
1865	182,113	7,490	41·12	2,737	15·13
1866	197,360	8,466	42·89	2,540	12·86
1867	211,391	8,918	42·18	2,702	12·78
1868	222,825	9,391	42·14	2,662	11·94
1869	231,934	9,718	41·90	2,721	11·73
1870	242,824	10,277	42·32	2,703	11·13

The excess of births over deaths in 1870 was 7,574, viz. 3,645 males, and 3,929 females. The total excess of registered births over registered deaths in sixteen years—1855 to 1870 inclusive—was 59,577, viz. 27,893 males, and 31,684 females.

Trade and Interchange.

SHIPPING.

Shipping,
inwards and
outwards.

The numbers and tonnage of vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards at the several ports of New Zealand during the year 1870 were as follow:—The total inwards was 756 vessels, of 273,151 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1869, of 8 in the number of vessels, but an increase of 22,420 in the tonnage. The total outwards was 766 vessels, of 265,407 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1869, of 5 in the number of vessels, but an increase of 7,643 in the tonnage.

Arrived from.

Of the total of 756 vessels inwards, 76, of 56,874 tonnage, arrived from the United Kingdom; 556, of 184,904 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 124, of 31,373 tonnage, from foreign countries (including the southern whale fisheries).

Cleared for.

Of the total of 766 vessels outwards, 58, of 43,532 tonnage, cleared for the United Kingdom; 548, of 182,876 tonnage, for the Australian Colonies and other British possessions; and 160, of 38,999 tonnage, for foreign countries (including the southern whale fisheries).

Nationality of
vessels.

Of the 756 vessels inwards, 145, of 85,643 tonnage, were British; 553, of 167,869 tonnage, colonial; 45, of 15,361 tonnage, American; 4, of 569 tonnage, German; 3, of 427 tonnage, French; 2, of 1,025 tonnage, Norwegian; 1, of 1,000 tonnage, Russian; 1, of 536 tonnage, Swedish; 1, of 385 tonnage, Hawaiian; and 1, of 336 tonnage, Dutch. Of the 766 vessels outwards, 133, of 78,197 tonnage were British; 574, of 166,812 tonnage, colonial; 44, of 15,115 tonnage, American; 5, of 2,228 tonnage, Norwegian; 3, of 568 tonnage, German; 3, of 427 tonnage, French; 2, of

673 tonnage, Dutch; 1, of 1,000 tonnage, Russian; and 1, of 387 tonnage, Hawaiian.

The number of registered vessels belonging to ports in New Zealand on the 31st December, 1870, was 384, of 26,743 tonnage (viz. 323 sailing vessels, of 20,606 tonnage, and 61 steam-vessels of 6,137 tonnage), against 381 vessels of 25,990 tonnage, on the 31st December, 1869. Of these, 184 vessels, of 9,177 tonnage, belonged to the Port of Auckland; 26, of 3,285 tonnage, to the Port of Wellington; 9, of 501 tonnage, to the Port of Napier; 26, of 1,345 tonnage, to the Port of Nelson; 61, of 4,062 tonnage, to the Port of Lyttelton; 71, of 8,184 tonnage, to the Port of Dunedin; and 7, of 189 tonnage, to the Port of Invercargill.

NEW
ZEALAND.

Registered
vessels
(belonging to
New Zealand).

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony in 1870 was 4,639,015*£*. against 4,976,126 in 1869, being a decrease of 337,111*£* or 6·77 per cent.

Imports, total
value in 1870,
as compared
with 1869.

The following figures show the increase or decrease in each of the provinces (and the County of Westland) in 1870, as compared with 1869:—

	£	
Auckland - - - - decrease,	44,808, or	8·28 per cent.
Taranaki - - - - increase,	3,868, "	31·37 "
Wellington - - - - "	18,814, "	8·85 "
Hawke's Bay - - - - "	14,919, "	18·59 "
Nelson - - - - decrease,	76,016, "	20·72 "
Marlborough - - - - increase,	2,941, "	48·14 "
Canterbury - - - - decrease,	36,164, "	6·61 "
Westland - - - - "	86,644, "	17·42 "
Otago (including Southland),	133,527, "	8·20 "

A comparison of the total value of imports in 1869 and 1870, according to the countries whence they were received, gives the following results:—

	1869.	1870.	
	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	2,458,579	2,685,786	increase 227,157
British Colonies -	2,280,135	1,759,872	decrease 520,263
Foreign States -	237,412	193,407	" 44,005
Totals - -	4,976,126	4,639,015	decrease 337,111

The total value of the exports from New Zealand in 1870 was 4,822,756*£*., against 4,224,860 in 1869, being an increase in 1870 of 597,896*£*., or 14·15 per cent. Excluding the value of imported goods re-exported from the Colony, the total value of exports of New Zealand produce and manufactures in 1870 amounted to 4,544,682*£*., against 4,090,134*£*. in 1869, being an increase of 454,548*£*., or 11·11 per cent.

Exports, total
value in 1870,
as compared
with 1869.

The two very important exports—gold and wool—demand more particular notice here.

New
Zealand.
Gold.

The total value of the gold exported from New Zealand in 1870 was 2,157,585*l.*, produced by the several gold-fields to the following amounts, viz. Auckland, 319,146*l.*; Marlborough, 7,408*l.*; Wellington, 120*l.*; Nelson, 591,510*l.*; County of Westland, 578,707*l.*; Otago, including Southland, 660,694*l.*

The total value of gold exported in 1869 was 2,362,995*l.* There appears therefore a net decrease in 1870, amounting to 205,410*l.* The falling off in amount occurred in Auckland, Nelson and Westland, while in Marlborough and Otago there was an increase. The exact amount of increase or decrease in each case is shown in the following figures:—

VALUE of GOLD EXPORTED in 1869 and in 1870 respectively.

	1869.	1869.	Whether Increase or Decrease.	Amount of Increase or Decrease.
	£	£		£
Produce of the Gold Fields in the Province of Auckland - - - }	435,687	319,146	Decrease	116,541
Ditto Province of Marlborough - - - }	2,664	7,408	Increase	4,744
Ditto " Nelson - - - }	623,872	591,510	Decrease	32,362
Ditto " Wellington - - - }	—	120	Increase	120
Ditto County of Westland - - - }	687,316	578,707	Decrease	108,609
Ditto Province of Otago (including Southland) - - - }	613,456	660,694	Increase	47,238
	2,362,995	2,157,585	Decrease	205,410

Large increase
in first three
quarters of
1871.

[Although, so far as the "General Statistics" are concerned, this Report applies to the year 1870, it seems proper to note here that the gold returns published in the 'Gazette' for the first three quarters of 1871 show a large increase. The total quantity of gold exported from 1st January to 30th September amounted to 576,364 ounces, of the total value of 2,191,205*l.*, being 33,620*l.* more than the total value for the whole of the year 1870. This advance is to be attributed to the greatly increased productiveness of the gold-fields in the Province of Auckland, the export of which for the three quarters referred to being, in quantity, 275,464 ounces; in value, 987,605*l.*; being an increase of 189,930 ounces, of the value of 668,459*l.* over the export from the Auckland gold-fields for the whole of the year 1870.]

The total quantity of gold exported from New Zealand from the 1st April, 1857, to the 31st December, 1870, was 5,542,849 ounces; the total value, 21,565,479*l.*

Wool.

The total quantity of wool exported in 1870 was 37,039,763 lbs., against 27,765,636 lbs. in 1869, being an increase of 9,274,127 lbs. The total value stated for 1870 was 1,703,944*l.*, against 1,371,230*l.* in 1869, showing an increase of 332,714*l.* or 24·26 per cent.

Revenue of the Colony.

Customs
revenue.

The Customs revenue in 1870 amounted to 765,930*l.*, against 823,511*l.* in 1869, being a decrease of 57,581*l.*, or 6·98 per cent.

The following figures show the comparative amounts realized by this branch of the revenue during the ten years 1861 to 1870 inclusive:—

NEW
ZEALAND.

Comparison
for ten years.

		£	
1861	- 260,863, being an increase of	71,695, or 37·90 per cent.	
1862	- 399,436, " "	138,573, " 53·12 "	
1863	- 592,050, " "	192,614, " 48·22 "	
1864	- 592,346, " "	296, " 0·05 "	
1865	- 730,008, " "	137,662, " 28·24 "	
1866	- 844,267, " "	114,259, " 15·65 "	
1867	- 843,997, being a decrease of	270, " 0·03 "	
1868	- 788,829, " "	55,168, " 6·53 "	
1869	- 823,511, being an increase of	34,682, " 4·39 "	
1870	- 765,930, being a decrease of	57,581, " 6·99 "	

The total ordinary revenue in 1870 amounted to 960,368, against 1,025,516 in 1869, being a decrease of 65,148, or 6·35 per cent. Ordinary revenue.

The total territorial revenue in 1870 amounted to 327,589, against 382,070 in 1869, being a decrease of 54,481, or 14·25 per cent. Territorial revenue.

The general total of the revenue (both ordinary and territorial) amounted in 1870 to 1,287,957, against 1,407,586 in 1869, being a decrease of 119,629, or 8·49 per cent. General total.

The subjoined Table exhibits a comparative view of the revenue, ordinary and territorial, in the several provinces in 1869 and 1870, specifying the centesimal increase or decrease in each province in the latter year:— Comparison of revenue in 1869 and 1870.

	ORDINARY REVENUE.			TERRITORIAL REVENUE.			TOTAL ORDINARY AND TERRITORIAL.		
	1869.	1870.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1869.	1870.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.	1869.	1870.	Centesimal Increase or Decrease.
Provinces—	£.	£.		£.	£.		£.	£.	
Auckland -	250,624	222,565	D. 11·19	41,786	23,454	D. 43·87	292,410	246,019	D. 15·88
Taranaki -	8,406	8,241	D. 1·98	—	97	I. 97·00	8,406	8,338	D. 0·80
Wellington -	97,436	96,692	D. 0·76	7,935	6,829	D. 17·71	105,371	103,521	D. 2·04
Hawke's Bay -	31,904	33,463	I. 4·88	3,305	8,771	I. 74·61	35,209	39,234	I. 11·43
Nelson -	91,735	86,424	D. 5·78	36,965	34,306	D. 7·19	128,700	120,730	D. 6·19
Marlborough -	8,718	10,611	I. 21·71	5,684	8,338	D. 4·44	14,302	15,947	I. 11·50
Canterbury -	126,831	128,933	I. 2·46	64,840	68,490	I. 5·62	190,671	197,423	I. 3·54
County—									
Westland -	104,266	86,508	D. 17·03	44,628	36,619	D. 17·94	148,894	123,127	D. 17·30
Provinces—									
Otago -	273,930	260,772	D. 4·80	148,484	131,152	D. 11·67	422,414	391,924	D. 7·21
Southland -	32,486	25,969	D. 19·99	28,543	15,835	D. 44·53	61,029	41,824	D. 31·46
Chatham Islands }	180	170	D. 5·55	—	—	—	180	170	D. 5·55
	1,025,516	960,368	D. 6·35	382,070	327,589	D. 14·25	1,407,586	1,287,957	D. 8·49

The territorial revenue, stated above, includes the duty on gold exported, and the sums received for miners' rights and gold-fields fees. The component parts of the total given as "territorial revenue" in each of the gold-producing provinces for 1870 are as follow:— Revenue collected by receivers of land revenue, — Auckland, 575*l.* 10*s.*; Nelson, 5,759*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*; Marlborough, 4,751*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; Westland, 3,298*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; Otago, 88,905*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*;

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and Southland, 15,138*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* Duty on gold exported, and miners' rights and gold-fields fees,—Auckland, 19,482*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; Nelson, 28,546*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*; Marlborough, 584*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*; Westland, 33,319*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*; Otago, 42,246*l.* 11*s.*; and Southland, 696*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* Also duty and fees native lands courts,—Auckland, 3,395*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*; Wellington, 1,025*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; and Hawke's Bay, 3,304*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

The amount shown for Southland is only to the 5th of October, 1870. After that Southland was re-incorporated with Otago.

Debt of the General and Provincial Governments.

The total amount of debentures in circulation on the 31st December, 1870, was 7,841,891*l.*, against 7,360,616*l.* on the 31st December, 1869; and the total annual charge for interest and sinking fund on the 31st December, 1870, was 479,761*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, against 459,535*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* on the 31st December, 1869.

The proportions of the debt of the Colony, owing by the general and provincial Governments respectively, together with the annual charge for interest and sinking fund to which each Government was liable on the 31st December, 1870, were as follows, viz. :—

The general Government — debt, 4,543,316*l.*; annual charge, 268,902*l.*: Province of Auckland, debt, 632,150*l.*; annual charge, 38,561*l.*: Province of Taranaki, debt, 25,000*l.*; annual charge, 1,500*l.*: Province of Wellington, debt, 259,956*l.* 10*s.*; annual charge, 17,970*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*: Province of Hawke's Bay, debt 113,343*l.* 10*s.*; annual charge, 6,927*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*: Province of Nelson, debt, 83,543*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*; annual charge, 5,580*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*: Province of Marlborough, debt, 11,406*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*; annual charge, 684*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*: Province of Canterbury, debt, 683,319*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*; annual charge, 42,282*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; County of Westland, debt, 207,430*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*; annual charge, 13,016*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*: Province of Otago (including former Province of Southland), debt, 1,282,425*l.*; annual charge, 84,336*l.* 5*s.*

Post Office.

Letters
received and
dispatched.

The total numbers of letters received in New Zealand during the year 1870 were—from places without the Colony, 483,994, against 482,629 in 1869; and from places within the Colony, 2,534,938, against 2,159,906 in 1869; making a general total of 3,018,932, against 2,642,535 in 1869, being an increase of 376,397. The total numbers of letters dispatched were,—to places without the Colony, 466,235, against 477,375 in 1869; and to places within the Colony, 2,160,712, against 1,896,685 in 1869 making a general total of 2,626,947, against 2,374,060 in 1869, being an increase of 252,887.

Newspapers
received and
dispatched.

The total numbers of newspapers received in 1870 were,—from places without the Colony, 1,174,544, against 1,098,469 in 1869; and from places within the Colony, 1,092,390, against 978,423 in 1869; making a general total of 2,266,934, against 2,076,892 in 1869, being an increase of 190,042. . . . The total numbers of newspapers dispatched were,—to places without the Colony,

against 405,047 in 1869; and to places within the Colony, 1,272,991, against 1,081,208 in 1869; making a general total of 1,622,728, against 1,486,255 in 1869, being an increase of 136,473.

The total amount of the postal revenue in 1870 was 55,780*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, against 58,007*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* in 1869, being a decrease of 2,226*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, or 3·83 per cent.

The total number of money orders issued in New Zealand in 1870 was 31,864, against 28,427 in 1869, being an increase of 3,437. The total amount of these orders in 1870 was 140,454*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*, against 127,218*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* in 1869, being an increase of 13,236*l.* 3*s.* The total number of money orders paid in New Zealand in 1870 was 19,221, against 16,740 in 1869, being an increase 2,481. The total amount of these orders in 1870 was 84,823*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, against 75,833*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* in 1869, being an increase of 8,990*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

NEW
ZEALAND.

Postal
revenue.

Money orders.

Savings Banks.

At the close of the year 1870, the number of Post Office savings banks in the Colony was 70, being an increase of 11 as compared with 1869. Of these, 14 were in the Province of Auckland; 2 in the Province of Taranaki; 4 in the Province of Hawke's Bay; 7 in the Province of Wellington; 4 in the Province of Marlborough; 5 in the Province of Nelson; 3 in the County of Westland; 9 in the Province of Canterbury; 18 in the Province of Otago; and 4 in the Province of Southland. Within the year 4,304 new accounts were opened, and the total deposits (including additions to open accounts) amounted to 264,328*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* The total amount of principal withdrawn during the year was 208,526*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* Taking into account the whole period from the commencement of the system in 1867 to the 31st December, 1870, there remained on the latter date, including principal and interest, a total balance to the credit of depositors amounting to 295,372*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

Post Office
savings banks.

The number of savings banks other than those connected with the Post Office was 10. The total number of persons having deposits in these banks on the 31st December, 1870, was 3,820 (of whom 29 were Maoris). The total deposits during the year amounted to 53,943*l.* 2*s.*; and the total of the sums withdrawn to 52,818*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was 93,432*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

Previously
existing
savings banks.

Taking both classes of savings banks together, there was on the 31st December, 1870, an aggregate amount of 388,804*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* to the credit of depositors, being 68,419*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* more than the aggregate amount at the end of the year 1869.

Telegraph.

The telegraph stations in the Colony in December, 1870, numbered 63, being 11 more than in December, 1869, and 15 more than in 1868; the number of miles of lines was 1,887, being 276 more than in 1869; 416 more than in 1868; 1,173 more than in 1867; 1,188 more than in 1866; the number of miles of wire was 3,159, being 382 more than in 1869; 522 more than in 1868; 1,712 more than

Telegraph
Stations and
lines;

NEW
ZEALAND.
—
and numbers
of telegrams.

in 1867; and 1,761 more than in 1866; the aggregate number of telegrams (private and Government) was 238,195, against 173,746 in 1869; 134,647 in 1868; 87,436 in 1867, and 48,231 in 1866.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN B. BENNETT,
Registrar-General.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 20.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from General Sir W. F. WILLIAMS,
Bart., G.C.B., to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(No. 48.)

MY LORD,

Gibraltar, April 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1871, the accuracy of which has been certified by the Colonial Secretary.

Revenue.

2. The revenue of 1870 from all sources amounted to 36,397*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, showing a decrease of 1,436*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* as compared with that of the preceding year. The principal decrease has been under the heads of duties on wines and spirits, wharfage tolls, auction dues, and port rates and duties, and is to be attributed to the general depression of trade during the late war, and to the long continuance of quarantine restrictions imposed at this port in consequence of the prevalence of yellow fever on the eastern coast of Spain and the Balearic Islands.

Expenditure.

3. The total expenditure of the year amounted to 41,920*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, showing an increase of 12,196*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* over that of 1869. This large increase is accounted for by the following extraordinary payments, viz.: 5,625*l.* being the sum demanded by Spanish brigands, and advanced from the Colonial chest for the ransom of the Messrs. Bonell on the understanding that it is to be repaid by the Spanish Government. 5,000*l.* paid into the military chest as a temporary loan, and since invested in exchequer bills for the benefit of the Colony, and 705*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* expended in the purchase of furniture for the private apartments of the convent or Government House, in accordance with the new arrangement recently adopted in this Colony.

The ordinary expenditure of the Colony has not increased, and the satisfactory state of the revenue, showing on the 31st December, 1870, an available surplus of 22,377*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.* will admit of measures of general public utility and sanitary improvements being carried out in future with increased facility and expedition.

Legislation.

4. Four Ordinances were enacted during the year, viz:—

No. 1, "An Ordinance to put in force in Gibraltar, the Partition Act, 1868."

No. 2, "An Ordinance to authorize an inquiry into the seizure, detention, and ransom of John Bonell and John Anthony Bonell."

No. 3. "An Ordinance for the encouragement and protection of Friendly Societies in Gibraltar." GIBRALTAR.

No. 4. "An Ordinance to make better provision against desertion from the Royal Navy."

Education.

5. No change has taken place in the number of schools. The education of the poorer classes is at present conducted by various schools, supported partly by voluntary subscriptions and partly by Government aid, which is given by the addition of one-third of the actual amount of bonâ fide local subscriptions for the current year; but the grants thus made are given without any condition of Government inspection. From the returns of 1870, it appears that 2,068 children are educated in schools receiving Government aid. Of these 2,068 children :—

1,296	are in schools of the Church of Rome.
133	in schools of the Church of England.
243	in Wesleyan schools.
396	in secular schools.

2,068

¶ It should be observed that these numbers do not give any precise information as to the relative number of Roman Catholic or Protestant children, as many Protestants send their children to Roman Catholic schools, and vice versâ. The total amount of the Government grant in aid of education for the year 1870, was 252*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*

Population.

6. The total population, civil and military, including 2,281 aliens on temporary permits of residence, on the 31st December last, was estimated at 24,076 souls, being 199 persons under the number given in the returns for 1869.

One hundred and seventy marriages were registered during the year, being 10 less than in the previous year. The births numbered 618, and the deaths 503. In the preceding year 678 births and 527 deaths were registered, showing a decrease in 1870 of 60 births and 24 deaths.

The rate of mortality last year was as follows :—

Civil population, numbering 18,063, 21·97 per thousand.

Military population, numbering 6,043, 17·62 per thousand.

Shipping.

§ 7. As a consequence of the late war and of the quarantine restrictions imposed during the past year, the shipping returns exhibit a considerable decrease, both in numbers and tonnage, when compared with the records of the year 1869.

† Three thousand seven hundred and eighty one vessels arrived with cargoes, and 414 in ballast. Of the arrivals, 2,308 vessels were

GIBRALTAR.

British, of the measurement of 1,149,742, with an aggregate crew of 50,543 men; and 1887 were foreign vessels of 335,487 tons measurement, with an aggregate crew of 22,635 men.

The following Table will give a comparative statement of the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels for the two years.—

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1869 - - - - -	4,662	1,546,456	78,784
1870 - - - - -	4,195	1,485,229	78,178
Decrease in 1870 -	467	61,227	5,606

General Remarks.

8. The sanitary state of the fortress during the past year has been remarkably good, and it is gratifying to me to be enabled to state that this important Colony is advancing in general prosperity, and that the best order and good feeling pervades every class of the community.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. F. WILLIAMS,
General.

MALTA

No. 21.

MALTA.

No. 21.

[(No Report received.)]

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND
ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor D'ARCY to The EARL OF
KIMBERLEY.

(No. 21.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
MY LORD, April 21, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of these Islands for the year 1870, with the following Report, which I trust will be found satisfactory.

Legislation.

2. During the year 1870 several Ordinances of moment were passed, viz.:—

1. Jury Ordinance.
2. Alien Ordinance.
3. Spirit Duties Ordinance.
4. Rinderpest Ordinance.
5. Naturalization Ordinance.
6. Amalgamation Ordinance.
7. Pilot Ordinance.

The necessity for these measures have been from time to time detailed to your Lordship, and they appear to work satisfactorily.

The time has now arrived when, the settlement having passed its first youth, it becomes necessary to form a poor law, a recent distressing case having forced itself on public notice where private charity was exhausted. It became at once necessary to legislate towards the formation of a municipality from amongst the householders of Stanley for the purpose of supporting their own indigent sick; and the Executive Council agreed with me that it was a fit and proper measure to bring forward in the Legislative Council; but on making the usual notice on the 'Gazette' board that such a measure was in contemplation by the Government, I was surprised to find how unfavourably it was received, the people imagining that it was the duty of the Government to maintain the poor of the Colony. I endeavoured to explain to them, in all friendliness, that the Government had done very much for the settlement in its youth, but that it was now the duty of the inhabitants to maintain their own poor; and I trust, as the subject becomes more discussed, they will view their inevitable responsibilities more favourably.

Imports and Exports.

3. The Tables below exhibit the value of imports and exports for the last ten years. I am sanguine, now the West Falkland Island is leased out in farms, they will show next year a great increase.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£		£	£
1860	26,697	5,910	1865	15,040	17,825
1861	27,205	15,986	1866	20,948	21,780
1862	25,532	15,556	1867	22,125	18,230
1863	28,658	18,415	1868	20,710	12,695
1864	19,438	10,114	1869	18,172	19,184

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Climate.

4. It is a perfect study in this Antarctic region to watch the variations of the climate; my service having been for the last 30 years in the tropics, the variable climate of these tempestuous regions became to me fraught with novel interest. During the last 12 months the average range of the thermometer has been 47°, and that of the barometer 29° 30"; the days were wild, grey, and tempestuous, giving, however, a relief of 32 glorious fine days, at long intervals, with a resplendent sun shining as bright as gold through the clearest of atmospheres, and ending with the most exquisite sunsets the imagination of a painter can conceive!

Governor Moody, in his Report of 14th April, 1842, modestly declines to take credit for the climate being suited to delicate people suffering from pulmonary affections; yet (and I give Dr. Mac Clinton, R.N., as my authority), although by general rule it ought to be unfavourable for such cases, for some unknown cause it is not so; for he has known bad cases frequently recover in the Falkland Islands: so dry is the atmosphere, half an hour after a storm of rain, table salt, for instance, which always on the coast of Africa sympathized with the damp atmosphere, and unfit to appear unless previously placed in the oven, here remains dry and fit for use without any drying process.

The winds, violent as is well known, are seldom continuous in one quarter; indeed, if they were so, all living things would perish from cold and inanition; the ground in the winter months is covered with snow; when the wind is from the south, the drifts become alarming, but in 48 hours the wind changes and a rapid thaw takes place. The climate in the neighbourhood of Stanley is very damp, owing to the peat-bog which surrounds the town on the south side; this during the nine winter months of the year is one large sponge enveloping the town in its damp embrace, and the south wind blowing over the ice-bergs of the Antarctic regions adds to the bleakness of the weather; moreover, the town of Stanley in the summer months is by no means an enviable residence; for, owing to the peculiar formation of the mountains to windward of the town, the fierce westerly summer winds are compressed into a funnel, and blow with a fierceness unusual in other parts of the Island; early settlers, nevertheless, showed a wise discretion in selecting Stanley as the seat of Government; the harbour being unrivalled; it is, in fact, a floating dock within the harbour of Port William, much resembling a narrow fresh water lake in the Highlands of Scotland.

In other parts of the Islands the peat patches are isolated and of no extent, consequently the climate is by no means so damp; the ground, moreover, is firm, and a pleasure to ride over. It must at

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ISLANDS.

the same time be remembered that the nights are very cold all the year round, so cold as to endanger life in the event of the sportsman or shepherd losing his way benighted on the bleak moor, as was the case only a few years ago, when Lieutenants Robertson and Jerningham, of the navy, were found near Stanley with life extinct, their guns and dead game by their sides. I have placed crosses to their memory on the spot where they were found, which may also serve as a warning to those who, in the ardour of youth and in the pursuit of a fascinating sport, may forget the rigour of the climate.

The lovers of natural history can find in these Islands much that affords observation. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who has visited nearly all the colonies, was pleased to express the interest he felt at the sight of the Penguin Rookery near Stanley. It is situated on a smooth, shelving, rocky mountain, which rises from the ocean at an angle of 45° facing the rising sun; precisely at 5 o'clock P.M. on the 28th September (which day answers to the season of 28th of March in England) thousands upon thousands of these fish-birds arrive from their happy hunting depths in the great deep, and here they locate during the season of incubation, forming their nests in regular lines at right angles with each other, like the streets of a town; the contemplation of such beautiful order and regularity forces itself irresistibly on the mind. Meanwhile, the abundance of wild game gives zest to the sportsman, and the sealing trade gives lucrative employment to the population, who necessarily become a hardy and adventurous set of mariners, whilst the necessity for the employment of Gauchos (the tamers of wild cattle) gives another outlet for the youth of the settlement to become bold and skilful horsemen.

In consequence of the total absence of trees, bushes, and plants, the botanist would find but little to interest him, but the florist would be interested in seeing how the spring and summer flowers take shelter from the wind by hugging the ground so fixedly that even to discover them it is necessary to go down on your knees and peer into the grass.

The general impression is that the winds of the world are concentrated in and about the Falkland Islands, and indeed such may well be the opinion; but Mr. Smither, the master of the colonial mail schooner 'Foam,' who has made some 50 voyages conveying the mails to and from Monte Video, assures me that it is not in our immediate neighbourhood that the 'Foam' encounters the severest weather, but from latitude 45° to 47° South, off St. George's Bay, about half way between Stanley and Monte Video; here he describes the winds and the consequent seas as terrific, veering all round the compass in 24 hours. At this point he has, voyage after voyage, been compelled to heave to his little vessel, on one occasion five days, under a close-reefed boom foresail, being afraid to drive under bare poles even when the wind was favourable.

Population.

5. The Census taken this year shows an increase of upwards of 271 over the Census taken in 1862. Moreover, the crews from

shipwrecked vessels, and from those who put in for repairs, form a great addition to the nomade part of the population, although they cannot be considered as colonists, and consequently have not been enumerated.

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Public Works.

6. Mr. Bailey, the Surveyor-General, having the services of a handy body of artizans and labourers in the Royal Marines, who form the garrison, has been enabled during the year to carry out the following improvements at a comparative small cost.

(1.) A good macadamized road running at right angles from the main street over the hill at the back of the town, up to the signal staff at the top.

(2.) The jetty at the dockyard has been extended, a work much required for coaling and other purposes.

(3.) The track to Darwin, the main artery of the Island, has been much improved by a road made through a stream of stones, and several dangerous water gullies have been bridged.

(4.) The cemetery at Port Louis has been fenced in and repaired, and a bridle-road is now in course of construction to the lighthouse at Cape Pembroke, which is seven miles distant from Stanley, and which I hope will form an agreeable ride in all time to come for the community, free of the danger of boggy ground, so trying to the courage of both horses and their riders.

(5.) The new gaol cannot be completed, owing to the great difficulty of procuring lime; shells are not to be found on the Islands in sufficient quantities to warrant the construction of a kiln, and the freight is one dreaded by shipping masters. Fortunately, with the exception of an occasional refractory seaman or so, there are no prisoners.

Shipping.

7. The tonnage of vessels which entered the port during the year amounts to 20,227, with an establishment of 1,391 seamen, all of whom by their requirements foster trade of the settlement, adding considerably to the nomade population. The following vessels arrived in distress and were repaired here, and proceeded on their destination, except the 'Jhelum' and the 'Vicar of Bray,' condemned as unseaworthy:—

	Tons.		Tons.
'Jhelum' - - -	428	'Vicar of Bray' - - -	364
'Rosedale' - - -	459	'Calabar' - - -	496
'Queen of Nations' -	1,449	'Mathilde' - - -	845
'Astracana' - - -	1,192	'Look Out' - - -	1,067
'Vampyr' - - -	216	'Epsilon' - - -	504
'Madawaska' - - -	511	'Eagle' - - -	307

It is a pleasing reflection to bear in mind that at least three of this number could not possibly have beat up to Monte Video, and must have foundered but for the timely shelter this harbour of refuge afforded; it is possible the others might have reached Monte Video, but at a great risk and loss of valuable time; whilst the total wrecks

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of the 'Balcarry,' 'Maid of Athens,' 'Alto,' 'Vampyr,' 'Illimani,' as detailed to your Lordship in recent Despatches, are instances where but for the shelter of the port very many valuable lives must have perished, who have been all sent home as distressed British seamen, except two or three who have elected to remain as colonists.

Conveyance of Mails.

8. A monthly communication with the home country instead of a bi-monthly, as at present, would be of incalculable benefit to the settlement, and it is quite possible now to arrange this essential even with our mail schooner, 'Foam.' Sandy Point, on the Patagonian side of the Magellan Straits, is but 300 miles distant, whereas Monte Video is exactly 1,000 miles. The wind to the Point is unfavourable from Stanley, but by anchoring in the sheltered bay in New Island, one of the Falkland group, until a favourable slant of wind could be seized, the average passage is but a week; returning, the powerful prevailing west wind would sweep the 'Foam' along in three days or less. Sandy Point, owing to the discovery of gold and coal, has become an important dependency of the Chilian Government, and a line of large steamers running from Liverpool to Valparaiso coal there monthly. I hope to be able to submit soon to your Lordship a Despatch suggestive of this desirable undertaking.

Education.

9. The Government school is a very satisfactory institution, nearly one hundred little people are in course of instruction; they are more advanced than I could have expected, and their attainments are of a fair average order.

The Sunday school is also well attended, several of the wives and daughters of the colonial officers and the leading merchants take classes under the superintendence of the colonial chaplain. I am sorry to report a great scholastic want in the camp, and I am at a loss how to meet the difficulty. About forty children, the sons and daughters of shepherds and stock masters, for the most part in the service of the Falkland Islands Company, scattered in distant stations, many miles apart from each other, appropriately named Tranquillidad and Soledad, are growing up in ignorance, their parents being fully occupied with their daily responsible and active duties, cannot be expected to supply the deficiency; there is moreover amongst these families a great want of ecclesiastical superintendence. In Scotland I am told such requirements are met by a mounted schoolmaster, who goes from cottage to cottage regularly, remaining at each shepherd's hut a week, leaving a task behind him to be learnt by his return; the expense of such a functionary might reasonably be entertained by the company, as the Government have maintained the Stanley school since the formation of the settlement.

General Remarks.

10. I reported in my last Report on the Blue Book that I considered the people showed a disposition of loyalty and a love of order,

and such is indeed the case, but at the same time it is accompanied with a strange insular dependance on the Government, difficult to reconcile with the better parts of their disposition. They wholly rely on the Government for many private wants and for all colonial improvements. They are extremely repugnant to taxation, even of an indirect nature, and jealous and irritable to a degree at the attempts the Government have made lately to control the wrecking trade, conceiving that the derelict of the ocean to be wholly the property of the discoverer, in fact displaying the greatest ignorance of the laws which regulate salvage.

The resources of the Islands being so limited, they cannot be expected to rise to any state of prosperity, yet they offer a fair opening for a limited number of immigrants. Labourers and artizans, especially ship carpenters, find varied but not continuous employment, the former at 5s. a day, and the latter, when working on board ship, 16s. 8d. a day. Meat and bread are cheap, but house rent and firing and European articles are dear. I have, however, known several carpenters, married men with families, take home 500*l.* in savings after five years' industry. I cannot but believe that the general prospects of the Islands are hopeful, and they fully answer the benevolent object the British Government had in view when they were entertained as a dependency of the Crown, that of affording a refuge for the storm-tossed shipping who are compelled on their lawful occasions to round Cape Horn.

The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) G. D'ARCY,
Governor.

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